# CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST

for RETAILER — WHOLESALER — MANUFACTURER

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### **NEWS OF THE WEEK**

Sulphuric Acid Price Increase. — The Board of Trade has made an Order (S.I., 1950, No. 447), effective on April 1, increasing the maximum prices of weak sulphuric acid (B.O.V.) by 11s. 6d. per ton and strong sulphuric acid by 14s. 6d. per ton,

Export of Linseed Oil.—The Board of Trade, in agreement with the Ministry of Food, announces that a limited quantity of processed linseed oil can now be allowed for export. In addition, and in special circumstances, applications to export raw linseed oil in small quantities will be considered.

"Noxious Gas" List Extended.—The Alkali, etc., Works Order, 1950 (S.I., 1950, No. 364), which came into operation on March 25, extends the list of gases and fumes to be included within the expression "noxious or offensive gas" in the 1906 Act to include volatile organic sulphur compounds and fluorine. An extended description is given of sulphuric acid, chemical manure and bisulphite works.

Meeting of Statutory Committee.—The Statutory Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society is to meet at 2 p.m. on April 5 to consider information and evidence relating to (1) a person whose name was removed from the Register and who has now applied for the restoration; and (2) a member of the Society who is conducting a dispensary in association with a registered medical practitioner.

Anglo-Polish Trade.—Talks have been concluded in London between United Kingdom and Polish trade delegations. Chemicals are included in the list of goods Poland will send Britain. Poland is to grant import licences for (inter alia) pharmaceutical products and alkaloids, chemical reagents, toilet preparations, surgical instruments, cameras and photographic materials, razors and blades, x-ray and electro-medical apparatus and parts, and flavouring essences.

More State Scholarships.—The Ministry of Education announced on March 28 that the number of technical State scholarships available in 1950 is to be increased to 120. The scholarships are being offered to students to enable them to pursue fulltime degree courses-normally leading to an honours degree-or courses of equivalent standard at Universities. University Colleges, etc. Leaflets and application forms may be obtained from the Ministry, Curzon Street, London, W.I.

Scottish Wholesalers' Social Evening .-Staffs of the Edinburgh members of the Scottish Wholesale Druggists' Association and their friends were the guests of T. & H. Smith, Ltd., at a function held recently in the city. Mr. Graham Adams (a representative of Thomas Morson & Son. Ltd.) entertained the gathering with a most versatile display of the magician's art. and Mr. B. C. Young screened several excellent 16-mm. sound films. Mr. John H. Ramsay, Ph.C. (a director of T. & H. Smith., Ltd.) was in the chair.

Anti-histamines and Common Cold.-In view of conflicting reports on the value of anti-histamines in the treatment of the common cold, the Medical Research Council has undertaken to arrange an investi-gation. Trials are being carried out in factories, Civil Service establishments, and other institutions where large numbers of subjects can be studied. Volunteers are asked to report when they have a cold. They are then given tablets and the progress of the cold is assessed during the Some of the volunteers are next week. given tablets containing the anti-histamine under trial, while controls receive tablets containing another compound. Neither the volunteer nor the doctor conducting the test knows which type of treatment is being given. It will be several months before the results of the tests are known.

N.P.U. Election Results .- The results of the ballots in the contested divisions. with the percentages of voting papers returned, in the triennial elections on March 27, were as follows:-

North-west 1: P. VARLEY, 181 (elected);

F. Smithson, 123 (61.82).

North-east 2: T HESELTINE, 161 (elected); B. C. Thorpe, 137 (67.0).

Eastern 1: P. D. J. SPAANDERMAN, 147 (elected); E. V. Abraham, 112 (44.0).

Southern 2: W. T. REES, 200 (elected); J. M. Dowty, 149; J. F. McNeal, 114 (65.72).

Western 1: T. N. DIXON, 136 (elected);

E. Margerrison, 53 (76.0).

Western 3: L. H. TEARE, 329 (elected); G. W. Sherwin, 140 (51.32).

Metropolitan: A. R. Melhuish, 621; A. Aldington, 494; F. G. Wells, 475 (elected); H. G. Moss, 440 (37.02).

Members returned unopposed were given

in the C. & D., March 18, p. 339.

Standard for Iodised Salt.-The Minister of Food, in consultation with the Minister of Health, has approved for publication a report by the Food Standards Committee recommending the adoption of a standard for iodised salt. The trade interests concerned were consulted before the recommendations were made, but a period of three months is being allowed during which any representations may be made. Within twelve months of the introduction of a Statutory Instrument giving effect to the proposals, all pre-packed free-running salt would be required to contain the equivalent of 15-30 parts per million of iodine. Within two years the same standard would apply to all other pre-packed Retail sale of cut-lump salt would be discontinued. Representations, if any, should be received by Mr. K. R. Allen, Secretary, Food Standards Committee, 47 Portman Square, W.I. by June 30.

### LOCAL NEWS

North Devon Lecture.—The lecture by Mr. H. J. Jarvis Graves, M.P.S. (see C. & D., March 11, p. 295) was given to members of the North Devon Pharmaceutical Association and not as stated.

Factory Roof on Fire.—A fire, caused by the ignition of an inflammable vapour, involved the whole roof in the chemical production department of Vitamins, Ltd., Upper Mall, London, W.6, on March 29. Prompt action by the staff brought the fire quickly under control, but water caused damage in the tableting department. No interruption of supplies is expected.

Glasgow Ladies' Committee. — The ladies' committee in connection with the Glasgow meeting of the British Pharma-ceutical Conference in September has raised a substantial sum towards the local expenses of the conference. A total of £147 in hand by the end of 1949 included £104 derived from a Christmas draw.

N.P.U. Candidates at Bournemouth.-A meeting of the Bournemouth Branch of the National Pharmaceutical Union on March 16 was addressed by the three candidates in the forthcoming election for the Southern Area 2 Division of the N.P.U. Executive Committee (Messrs. W. T. Rees, J. M. Dowty, and J. F. McNeal). Each speaker was allowed fifteen minutes for his election address, plus a further five minutes to reply to the two other speakers. The remainder of the evening was taken up by questions put to any of the candidates, Mrs. A. Rogers (chairman of the local Branch, presided.

Review of Examinations.—At a meeting of the Chesterfield Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society on March 15, Miss M. A. Burr (a member of Council) spoke on the Society's educational policy and on the Charter obligations of the Society. Miss Burr outlined the history of the Society from 1841 to 1950, and gave a brief account of the work of the Benevolent Fund Committee, making reference also to the success of the Birdsgrove House venture. Miss Burr concluded her address by saying "A great deal of the work will in future have to be done in the branches. They must be very active. We owe a great duty to the people who will come after us-a duty as great as, if not greater than, the one faced by the founders of the Society.'

Liverpool Association Dinner. — The guests at the annual dinner of the Liverpool Chemists' Association and branch of the Pharmaceutical Society on March 8 included the lord mayor of Liverpool, Mr. H. Clement Shaw (president, Pharmaceutical Society) and Mr. Arthur Murnaghan (chairman, Liverpool Executive Council). Mr. Murnaghan said Liverpool chemists had made up approximately half a million prescriptions, costing nearly £600,000 in a year, without a single complaint from a customer, so far as the Council was aware. He said that in Liverpool 90 per cent, of the amounts due to chemists had been paid within two or three weeks of the termination of each month. Within the next two or three weeks a proportion of outstanding balances would be received by contractors, Mr. Shaw said that, like other organisations, the Pharmaceutical Society was suffering from too-speedy legislation and the after-effects of war.

Film Show at Edgware.—A recent gathering of the Hendon and Edgware Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society at Edgware saw a film entitled "Nicotinic Acid Deficiency." The film dealt with the treatment of pellagra with nicotinic acid and nicotinamide, and showed in particular how the tongue, lips and skin of pellagrins were affected by the disease and the marked improvement which occurred as the result of treatment with these sub-

stances. A marked improvement on mental condition in cases of depression was observed soon after the commencement of treatment. In an informal talk after the showing of the film, Mr. J. C. Hodges (a representative of Eli Lilly & Co., Ltd.) said that, while the film dealt with severe cases of pellagra, it was to be hoped that the details given of signs and symptoms might enable the pharmacist to recognise occasional cases of nicotinic acid deficiency and to send them to hospital for treatment.

Durham County Annual Dinner .-The annual dinner of the Durham County Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society was held in Durham on March 8 when the president of the Branch (Mr. E. G. Richardson) welcomed Mr. W. J. Tristram (a member of Council) as guest of honour. In responding to the toast, "The Pharmaceutical Society," Mr. Tristram said he was sure that the majority of pharmacists would welcome the Society's statement on advertising dispensing services in the National Health Services. Mr. William Low proposed "The Visitors," who included Messrs. F. H. Oliver (head of the pharmacy department, Sunderland Technical College), and J. E. Bradley (Clerk, Durham Executive Council) and representatives of the Newcastle Branch. Mr. F. H. Oliver responded. The Durham Cathedral Quartette sang during the evening a song the words and music of which were composed by the president, who is also an Associate of the Royal College of Organ-

X-ray Film and Lecture.—At a meeting of the Liverpool Chemists' Association and Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society on March 16, Mr. J. H. Trace (a representative of Ilford, Ltd., gave a filmshow and lecture on the nature and uses of x-rays. After explaining the uses of the x-ray beam in medicine, Mr. Trace said that it was also of value in the industrial field. Boiler welds, for example, were now x-rayed to find the exact amount of adhesion along the line of weld. X-ray film was a contrasty emulsion, coated on both sides of the film base. It was placed between the cardboard leaves of an intensifying screen, coated with tungstate. When excited by the x-rays, it glowed with a bluish light, which acted upon the sensitive film. Thus it was possible to give short exposures and so lengthen the life of the x-ray tube. It was unfortunate that the amount of x-ray needed to kill many growths would also kill the living tissue surrounding, so masks were made, with various openings, to allow the site of the growth to be attacked from many angles.

President Returns to Huddersfield.—At the annual dinner and dance of the Huddersfield Chemists' Association and Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society, recently, the principal guests were Mr. H. Clement Shaw (president of the Society) and the mayor of Huddersfield. Proposing the toast to the Pharmaceutical Society, Mr. Malcolm Peel (secretary of the Branch) said that they were happy that the first president of the Society to visit Huddersfield should be a Huddersfield-born man. The Branch had sent to headquarters the results of a debate on the Society's education programme. He would like to see a compulsory three-year apprenticeship



PRESIDENT IN HUDDERSFIELD.—Mr. and Mrs. H. Clement Shaw with members of the Association.

before qualification. Mr. Shaw, responding, said that for the past two or three years he had not been happy about the number of entrants into pharmacy. had suggested that an intake of 800-900 a year was required, in addition to a bigger register than at present. The manpower inquiry would show, he thought, that he was near the mark. He thought that within a very short time the "apprenticeship after entrance into pharmacy would come back again. He thanked the Branch for the lead it had given to other branches in regard to amenities at Birdsgrove House, Mr. Frank North (chairman of the Branch proposing "The County Borough of Huddersfield," said that during the past year Huddersfield pharmacists had dispensed about 700,000 prescriptions. Other speakers were the mayor of Huddersfield, Mr. Kenneth Wortley and Mr. A. S. Davy (chairman, Bradford Branch).

### **OVERSEAS NEWS**

Malaria Control in Persia.—A malaria control demonstration is being organised in Persia under the auspices of the World Health Organisation,

Canada to Profluce A.C.T.H. — The Canadian Government, the University of Toronto, and Canadian industry, are to co-operate in a scheme to produce A.C.T.H. (adrenocorticotrophic hormone) The Canadian Minister of Health has stated that \$750,000 is to be provided for the first year's work.

Algerian Cork Industry.—Prior to the war, Algeria supplied one-sixth of tota world production of cork. The industry is once again in full development. The corkoak trees cover an area of 400,000 hectares About half the bark is taken by France the rest being exported to the United States, Scandinavia, and Central European countries.

U.S. Iodine Source.—Nearly half of the 1,500,000 lb. of iodine used annually in the United States of America is now being supplied by the oil industry. Iodine is obtained from brine brought up with the oil from some producing wells. The byproduct was first recovered from Louisiana wells in 1926, but recently West Coast oil wells have been supplying iodine in such quantities that U.S. iodine imports have been considerably reduced.

"Illegal" Austrian Drug Purchases.— The Economic Co-operation Administration has asked Austria to refund \$91,033 for drugs "illegally" purchased in Hungary with Marshall Aid funds when they could have been bought in America. The agency stated that the amount represented three shipments in the spring of 1949. The authorisation had expressly restricted the source of the drugs to the United States, but supplies were obtained in Hungary and trans-shipped through New York to Austria.

Gold Coast Insecticide Trials.—Under an agreement with the director of the West African Cacao Research Institute, Tafo, Gold Coast, West Africa, Pest Control, Ltd., Bourn, Cambs, are to furnish a team of three scientists to work under the general administrative direction of the Director of the Institute on an investigation at Tafo of the possible use of systemic insecticides to control the spread of swollen shoot disease of cocoa in West Africa. The object of the experiments is to kill the mealybug vector,

### TOPICAL REFLECTIONS

### Neighbourly Help

For many years past the dispensing of an occasionally wanted preparation . has, n well-known circumstances, been an anxiety. On the one hand there is the etailer who has none and wonders where ne can most quickly obtain it; on the other hand there is another retailer who has a supply and regards it as merely a "shelfwarmer." In some cases the two chemists carry on business near each other. Arrangenents for reciprocal accommodation have peen made in several cities and towns: the ystem reported from Glasgow on p. 381 s as good as any that I know. The factor of distance in so large an area was brought orward by one speaker at the meeting of he association. The difficulty that it involves, though real, is not insuperable; and I hope the scheme will be found to work well. This was not the only subect discussed at the meeting referred to. How many Glasgow pharmacists are being penalised by non-collection of films left or developing and printing I do not know; but at any rate the matter is sufficiently serious to warrant the suggestion of demanding a deposit from everyone eaving such films for treatment. This course would probably be unnecessary with old and regular customers: strangers, nowever, might reasonably be asked to urnish this evidence of good faith. Another problem, shortage of living accommodation for employees and locums, is common to many large centres of populaion; Glasgow pharmacists will be fortunate if they find a way to ease the trouble.

### N.H.S. Advisory Committees

hat at Chester a past-chairman of the Birkenhead Branch of the Pharmaceutical society has been referring to lay local divisory committees constituted under the National Health Service, and has indicated 'their function as a sounding-board for ocal opinion" on its administration. As have mentioned before, the Service is leavily weighted with machinery: unprejudiced observers may reasonably decribe it as overloaded in this respect. Pharmacists are busy people; they are lso practical people. It follows that they to not favour the functioning of an infefinite number of committees, and that hey wish to be satisfied as to the relevance feach. My view is that any lay local

A news paragraph on p. 358 records

advisory committee, if not kept within due bounds, may become an unmitigated nuisance. Local wiseacres are at most times ready to air their flimsy knowledge, with results as ludicrous as they are disconcerting. I suggest that the proceedings of these committees would be best arranged in the form of a brains trust. The most "senseless and fit" person (as Dogberry might have said) could preside, and questions could be put without too strict an adherence to the topics selected. Thus conducted, a session might produce a good deal of amusement, and impracticable notions should evaporate harmlessly.

#### Two Pictures

A remark made by Mr. B. C. Bryant at Bognor Regis recently (p. 358) expresses what I regard as an over-optimistic view of current medical practice. Your report states: "The change, he said, from the old conception of prescribing was now complete, for no longer was the symptom treated but an attempt was made to eliminate the causation . . . . . This opinion has lately appeared in the medical and pharmaceutical Press, and is justifiable in a limited application; but as a general statement it is not likely to command the assent of thoughtful readers. It happens that a very different picture appeared in "The Lancet" of March 25. An Australian writer, Dr. Joseph Collings (see also p. 405) contributed to our contemporary a survey of the practice of medicine in England as observed by him. Dr. Collings does not attribute all the defects he instances to the conditions set up by the advent of the National Health Service, but holds that these conditions have accentuated the basic troubles of general practice in this country. Instead of the N.H.S. giving the general practitioner a more assured position in relation to his patients, almost the opposite is happening the author states. The authorities controlling the larger hospitals appear to be pushing the family doctor into the background. It may, of course, be replied that this state of affairs, if it is proved to exist, does not prevent any practitioner from attempting to eliminate the causation" rather than to treat the symptoms of his patients. But how is this lofty purpose to be applied in crowded surgeries, with insufficient time for the kind of diagnosis insisted on by consultant physicians? Xrayser

### **NEW COMPANIES**

D. DAVIS (DISPENSING CHEMISTS), LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £100. David Davis, Ph.C., and Jack Davis, directors. Solicitors: Winter, Plowman & Co., 17 Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2.

REDEP, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £10,000. To act as consultants, analysts, chemists, etc. First directors are to be appointed. S. E. Daniell, secretary. R.O.: Canada House, Norfolk Street, London, W.C.2.

BURBRANT & Co., LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £100. To carry on the business of chemists, and druggists. opticians. etc. Wilfred M. Nathan and Eveline I. Nathan, directors. R.O.: 8 Bedford Hill, London, S.W.12.

C. A. WATTERS & Co., LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £500. To acquire the business of C. A. Watters, chemical merchant, 77 Lancaster Avenue, Manchester, 4. Christopher A. Watters and Patricia M. Watters, directors.

Thos. G. Cathro, Ltd. (P.C.).—Capital £2,000. To acquire the business of a chemist carried on by Jane Cathro at 103 Main Street. Frodsham, Cheshire. Jane Cathro and Dorothy S. Cathro, M.P.S., directors.

Talison Pharmaceutical Products, Ltd. (P.C.).—Capital £500. To carry on the business of manufacturing and dispensing chemists and druggists, etc. Joseph D. Taylor, M.P.S., and Edward J. Allison, directors, R.O.: 82 Beaconsfield Road, Brighton.

J. J. Giles & Son, Ltd. (P.C.).—Capital &500. To acquire the business of Donald W. Grinstead, M.P.S., carried on at Folkestone as J. J. Giles & Son, and to carry on the business of retail chemists and druggists, photographic dealers, etc. Daisy Grinstead and Gordon V. Moredaunt, directors, R.O.: 44 Guildhall Street, Folkestone, Kent.

### Company News

Monsanto Chemicals, Ltd.—Professor E. K. Rideal and Mr. G. Tyser have been appointed directors.

C. J. Hewlett & Son, Ltd.—Mr. Owen C. Pritchard has resigned from the board with the directors' full approval, and has taken over the business of James L. Hatrick (London). Ltd., surgical instrument makers, 58 Britton Street, London, E.C. 1. Mr. Pritchard will continue to represent C. J. Hewlett & Son Ltd., as before.

### **BUSINESS CHANGES**

PREMIER PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLY Co. have removed to 93A Shakespeare Walk, London, N.16.

The telephone number of the Pharmaceutical Society's Scottish Department has been changed to (Edinburgh) Central 4386.

R. P. Scherer, Ltd., is the newly-adopted title of Gelatin Products, Ltd., 216 Bath Road, Slough, Bucks.

Boots, Ltd., have appointed Mr. A. J. Ironside, M.P.S., as the company's territorial general manager in the South-west of Scotland from April 1.

ALLIED DRUG & CHEMICAL Co., Robert Street, London, N.W.I, have appointed Mr. C. A. F. Best as their representative for South Thames, Surrey and Kent areas.

MR. HENRY A. NAYLOR, M.P.S.I., 23 Pearse Street, Athlone, has been appointed compounder of medicines to the Athlone No. 1 and 2 Dispensary Districts.

A. BOAKE, ROBERTS & CO., LTD., LONDON, E.15, are removing their sales office on April 14 to 100 Carpenters Road Stratford, London, E.15 (Telephone: Maryland 5511).

MR. MICHAEL J. DORE, L.P.S.I., South Quay, Newcastlewest, co. Limerick, has been appointed compounder of medicines to the County Home, Newcastlewest, and Newcastlewest Dispensary District.

Dr. E. H. T. Hoblyn, M.B.E., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C., A.M.I.Chem.E., has been appointed director of the British Chemical Plant Manufacturers' Association and of the British Food Machinery Manufacturers' Association.

HARKER, STAGG, LTD., Emmott Street, London, E.I have appointed Mr. H. R. Barnard, B.Sc., A.R.I.C., as their chemist in charge of special production and Mr. H. H. Gale as manager of their ethical medical sales department. Mr. C. W. Cox, for many years representative in Southeast London, has been obliged to retire on account of ill-health,

Evans Medical Supplies, Ltd., Speke, Liverpool, 19 have made the following appointments:—Mr. C. Longstaffe to be chemists' representative for North Liverpool and the Isle of Man; Mr. E. J. Randall, medical and chemists' representative for Cumberland and the Scottish Border Counties; Mr. M. V. Sidebottom, chemists' representative for North-east Lancashire.

### THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT

By a Member of the Press Gallery, House of Commons

PAYMENT of chemists in England and Scotland was the subject of much questioning in the House of Commons on March 21 and 23. LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER CLARK HUTCHISON asked the Secretary for Scotland whether he had now reached a satisfactory conclusion to his negotiations with representatives of the chemists over the speeding up of the payment of claims made under the National Health Service. MISS MARGARET HERBISON (Joint Under Secretary) replied, "The position varies from time to time, and the Department is in constant touch with chemists, so that payments on an agreed basis may be made as quickly as is practicable."

When Lieutenant-Commander Hutchison further asked whether there were many back claims outstanding she said "We find that substantial payments on account are made to each chemist promptly each month, and these are made at a rate per prescription form equal to go per cent, of the rate finally determined last April for the chemist concerned." That applied to the majority of chemists in Scotland.

COLONEL GOMME-DUNCAN asked if Miss Herbison would bear in mind that "this payment by degrees bears hardly, not only on the old-established chemist but on those stablished since the war, who have not he resources behind them of others who have been in business for some time." MISS HERBISON replied that she would be willing to accept that, but go per cent. was a airly high proportion of payment. It was mpossible at present, because of technical difficulties, to speed up further payments.

Mr. Bevan was questioned by Mr. STAN-EY PRESCOTT on March 23. He asked what was the total sum outstanding to hemists under the health scheme, over what period the sum was owing how many hemists were concerned, and why there was delay in settling accounts?

MR. ANEURIN BEVAN replied: About £3½ millions representing balances due or the period August 1949 to February 950, after substantial payments on acount had been made to the 12,975 hemists concerned. The pricing staffs lave been unable to deal satisfactorily with he greatly increased number of prescriptions issued, but a new procedure recently tarted should lead to better progress.

MR. PRESCOTT asked whether the Miniser was aware that there was great hardship among chemists throughout the country because, during the past six months, they had been financing the Health Service? Would he do everything he could to expedite payment in future? Mr. Bevan: We are doing all we can, but there has been a very large increase indeed in the number of prescriptions. Ninety per cent. of the bills are paid within a month.

MR. GEORGE WARD asked the Minister what steps he was taking to reduce the delay in payments to chemists, and MISS IRENE WARD asked when he proposed to pay the outstanding claims due to chemists in the constituency of Tynemouth? Mr. Bevan replied as to Mr. Prescott. MR. WARD then asked: Is the Minister aware that, in Worcester, chemists are experiencing delays of between three and eight months in some cases in receiving payment, and that at a recent meeting, they resolved to make representations to the Minister which he should have had by now?

MR. BEVAN: Chemists have their own means of making representations to me. The arrears cannot be more than 10 per cent., as I have explained.

Miss Ward asked: As the Government are making money on the outstanding amounts due to chemists, will the Minister consider paying interest on the amounts which the Government owe to chemists? MR. Bevan replied that he was satisfied that chemists were adequately remunerated for the services they rendered.

MR. E. FERNYHOUGH asked whether, in view of the distressing financial circumstances of chemists, the Minister would consult the Minister of National Insurance or the National Assistance Board with a view to giving favourable consideration to any application to help being received from chemists? There was no reply.

#### German Glassware

MR. JOHN GRIMSTON asked the Minister of Health on March 23 what was the landed duty-paid value of hospital glassware imported for his Department from Germany, the rate of duty paid, and the saving made compared with the prices for the same ware at home. MR. ANEURIN BEVAN replied that he understood that the agreements between manufacturers and distributors of furnace-blown and pressed

laboratory glass precluded manufacturers from tendering for Government bulk requirements of beakers, flasks and heavy chemical glassware. The total hospital needs were estimated at £15,000 a year, of which only one-third could be obtained under direct contracts with manfacturers. The landed duty-paid value of glassware recently imported from Germany was £2,765, the rate of duty paid being 33½ per cent. The purchase represented a saving varying between 10 per cent, and 30 per cent. compared with prices for the same sizes and types of British glassware.

MR. E. H. KEELING asked if the Minister was aware that his statement on March 14 that retailers had been asked to tender, was wrong. They had not been asked. "Is he aware that, by his own showing, he was also wrong in saying that there was a large saving by buying in Germany? Is he further aware that, by buying in Germany, he went against the advice of a Government Committee which had stated that laboratory glass was a key industry which should be maintained in this country at all hazards?

MR. BEVAN: If we saved from 10 to 30 per cent. after paying 33\frac{1}{3} per cent. duty on glassware, surely an excessive price was being charged to British users. If the industry is necessary, as it is, for the welfare of Great Britain, that situation ought not to be exploited by the industry itself.

MR. EMRYS ROBERTS asked whether the Minister would refer the arrangement between the glass manufacturers and the retailers to the Monopolies and Restrictive Practices Commission? The Minister said he was considering it, but hoped that the steps he had already taken would improve their conduct.

CAPTAIN CROOKSHANK asked: Will the Minister drop the use of the word "percentage" and say how much money was saved. MR. BEVAN: No. I am not prepared to give manufacturers at this stage, when we are still asking for tenders, the precise information.

Would it be about £3,000? asked Captain Crookshank. "No. It may be a lot more," was the reply, but Mr. Bevan was not prepared, when buying that material, to give tenderers information to enable them to fix prices.

### Contraceptives By-law

The Home Secretary informed Mr. B. Janner on March 23 that by-laws in respect of contraceptives had been made by twenty county and 181 borough councils.

### **PERSONALITIES**

MR, CHARLES L. HUISKING (president, Chas, L. Huisking & Co., Inc., New York, chemical and drug merchants) is now on a short visit to London.

MR. J. L. HINDLE (managing director of Standard Synthetics, Ltd., London) left Britain by air recently for the United States where he is to make a business tour.

Mr. W. P. B. Phillpotts, M.P.S., Stony Stratford, Bucks, was placed third in an event at the Vintage Sports Car Club rally and driving tests at Bisley, recently. It was his first competition.

MR. DAVID R. SCHWARZ (Schwarz Laboratories, Inc., New York, U.S.A.) left America on March 17 for a six-week trip to Europe during which he is to spend some time in Britain.

MR. T. D. Ough, B.Sc., works manager of Acheson Colloids, Ltd., Plymouth, and son of Mr. T. Ough, M.P.S., Liskeard, Cornwall, has been elected chairman of the South-western Section of the Society of Chemical Industry.

Dr. Hamilton Fairley (a member of the Medical Research Council, and holder of the chair of Tropical Medicine, London University) has received the Manson medal of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

MR. G. A. H. WILSON, M.P.S., the newly-elected chairman of the Halifax Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society, took over his present business in King's Cross Road, Halifax, in 1945 after managing pharmacies for Boots, Ltd., in Hull, Worksop, and Halifax, for a total of twenty-four years. Apprenticed to Mr. G. B. Wright, Hebden Bridge, Yorks, he served in the Special Brigade of the Royal Engineers during the 1914-18 war, and qualified, after study at the Manchester College of Pharmacy.

MR. O. KORNHAUSER, M.P.S., whose address in the Register is 556 Chelsea Cloisters, Sloane Avenue, London, S.W.3, was arrested on February 2 as he was about to board the plane to return to England at the conclusion of a visit to Poland to visit relatives and friends. Mr. Kornhauser, a Polish-born British subject, said in Berlin on March 25 that he had been accused of espionage for the British Intelligence, and had been imprisoned for seven weeks in a Polish gaol. He had been questioned for long periods by the Polish security police but had denied alleged spying activities.

### **BIRTH**

Imrie.—On March 22, Olwen (née Morgan), wife of Alfred Imrie, Ph.C., 3 High Street, Ely, Cambs, of a daughter (a sister for Jayne).

### MARRIAGES

BARCLAY—GUTHRIE.—At 9 Elm Grove, St. Monance, Fifes, on March 22, James William Kirk Barclay, younger son of Mr. Charles Barclay, M.P.S., The Pharmacy, Glencraig, Fifes, to Beatrice Guthrie, St. Monance.

Britton—Ellse. — At St. Andrew's Church, Nottingham, on March 25, Jack Britton, M.P.S. (superintendent chemist for Nottingham Co-operative Chemists, Ltd.) to Margaret Mary Ellse, Nottingham.

### **DEATHS**

BAGSHAWE.—On March 24, Sir Arthur Bagshawe, C.M.G., M.B., D.P.H., aged seventy-eight. As director of the Sleeping Sickness Bureau, 1908-12, and of its successor, the Bureau of Hygiene and Tropical Disease, 1912-35, he was largely responsible for the valuable work done by those bodies. He was the editor of the "Tropical Diseases Bulletin," and secretary, 1917-21, and president, 1935-37, of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

BICKERTON.—At his home, Westwood, Beare Green, Dorking, Surrey, on March 17, Mr. George Ramsey Bickerton. Mr. Bickerton was for many years a representative of Potter & Clarke, Ltd., in South Wales, Northern England and Scotland. He retired from active representation in 1046. He is survived by his widow and one son.

Collins.—At her home in Castlereagh Street, Sydney, N.S.W., recently, Mrs. Maire Collins. Mrs. Collins, who was registered as a Licentiate of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland in 1928, was a native of Maghera, co. Derry, and a daughter of Mr. John Walsh, L.P.S.I.

Izon.—On March 23, Mr. William John Izon, M.P.S. (Izon's (Birmingham), Ltd.), 86 High Street, Aston, Birmingham, 6. Mr. Izon qualified in 1917. He was a prominent member of the Birmingham Pharmaceutical Committee and of the Council of the Birmingham Pharmaceutical Association.

MACAULEY. — At his home, English Street, Downpatrick, co. Down, on March 23, Mr. John Macauley, M.P.S.N.I. Mr. Macauley qualified in 1913. Well known in masonic circles, he was for twenty-eight years treasurer of 369 Lodge, Downpatrick. He is survived by his widow, two sons and two daughters. His brother (the late Mr. James Macauley) was a pastpresident of the Ulster Chemists' Association.

Moffat.—At a nursing home in Glasgow, on March 24, Mr. William John Moffat, M.P.S., 1313 Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow, S.I. Mr. Moffat qualified in 1901.

MUNNOCH.—At Edinburgh, suddenly, on March 21, Mr. Robert Lunan Munnoch, M.P.S., 4 Polwarth Gardens, Edinburgh. Mr. Munnoch qualified in 1902.

Napp.—As the result of an accident, on March 26, Mr. Henry Richard Napp, founder (in 1923) of the business of H. R. Napp, Ltd., of which he was chairman and managing director.

TURNER.—On March 15, Mr. Arthur Groves Turner, M.P.S. 16 Dunherald Close, Thornton Heath, Surrey. Mr. Turner qualified in 1909.

### WILLS

MR. F. H. K. WILDE, M.P.S., Keystone, All Saints Road, Cheltenham, Glos, left £9.369 (£9,225 net).

Mr. F. A. Stackhouse, M.P.S., 22 Rosegrove Lane, Burnley, Lancs, left £6,997 (£5,821 net).

MR. D. EVANS, M.P.S., 213 Court Road, and 379 Footscray Road, London, S.E.9, left £14,036 (£13.641 net).

MR. W. T. SLATTER, M.P.S., 52 Festing Road, Southsea, formerly of Ye Olde Pharmacie, Emsworth, Hants, left £7,166 (£7,062 net).

MR. H. M. BATTLE, Westholme, Church Lane, Lincoln, chairman of Battles, Ltd., chemists, Lincoln, left £13,111 (£12,803 net).

MR. A. R. SMITH, M.Sc., Ph.C., F.R.I.C., 126 Elphinstone Road, Hastings, formerly of Milford-on-Sea, Nottingham, and Dorset, left £7,614 (£7,564 net).

MR. F. G. ROEBUCK, M.P.S., retired pharmacist, Rockley, Fell Drive, Grange-over-Sands, Lancs, formerly in business at Millhouses and Totley Rise, Sheffield, left £13,189 (£13,004 net).

### TRADE NOTES

North Sea Fair.—A "North Sea Fair" to be held at Bergen, Norway, in May, is to include a section on the chemical industry. Britain is among countries invited to be represented.

Now Free of Tax.—Evans Medical Supplies, Ltd., Speke, Liverpool, 19, announce that from April 3, Zant chloroxylenol type antiseptic is no longer subject to purchase tax.

Discontinued. — Glaxo Laboratories, Ltd., Greenford, Middlesex, announce that from April 3 supplies of staphylococcus toxoid (dilute and full strength) and stibophen are being discontinued.

Terry Face - cloths. — Individually wrapped Terry face-cloths, in printed transparent packs, are offered under the trade mark Sandra by N. & M. Gould, Ltd., 62 Stoney Lane, London, E.C.3.

Pharmaceutical Publicity.—A brochure describing the services of the General Advertising Co. (London), Ltd., 18 Charing Cross Road, London, W.C.2, has been issued and is available to readers on request.

Display Stand.—Chivers & Sons, Ltd., The Orchard Factory, Histon, Cambs, have prepared an attractive display stand (for use on counter or in window) for their black-currant purée. Chemists wishing to have one or more of the stands should write direct to the company.

New Popular Camera.—Neville Brown & Co., Ltd., Newman Yard, Newman Street, London, W.I, report a quick response to an announcement of their Wembley Sports folding pocket camera to take size 20 film. Details of the camera and accessories are given on another page.

"Paired Squares." — Jacobs Linens, Ltd., Tottenham Court Road, London, W.I, are putting on the market under the name Nippinap a combined pack containing, in a transparent wrapper, a 24 in. Terry napkin and a 30 in. double-thickness, seamless gauze square, interlocking at 1 in. intervals across the square.

Price Changes. — New reduced prices for B.D.H. penicillin solution tablets are announced by The British Drug Houses, Ltd., Graham Street, City Road, London, N.I.—Coates & Cooper, Ltd., Pyramid Works, West Drayton, Middlesex, announce an increase in the price of Valiment owing to greatly increased costs of raw materials.

N.H.S. Record Card. — A twelve-months' weekly record card for entering N.H.S. statistics is available from Orridge & Co., Ltd., 184 Strand, London, W.C.2. The card is ruled to show at a glance the number of scripts in a given week, the number of advance and supplement payments by the Executive Council, an analysis of scripts (ingredient cost, dispensing fees, container allowances, adjustment, and total) and rota duty. The card measures 12 in. by 9\frac{3}{4} in. and includes notes on how to use it.

Ruled Taxable.—PARKE, DAVIS & Co., Hounslow, Middlesex, state that the following products are no longer regarded by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise as eligible for purchase tax exemption: Orygene tablets; nitroglycerin tablets, gr. 100 (H.T.31, bottles of twenty-five and 100, and T.T.122, bottles of 100 and 1,000).—Roche Products, Ltd., Broadwater Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, have been advised by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise that calcium pantothenate is no longer regarded as being tax-free as a vitamin. In consequence, the salt and preparations containing it are now subject to purchase tax at the rate of 331 per cent.—VITAMINS, LTD., Upper Mall Road, London, W.6, regret that in a previous announcement the following lines were inadvertently stated to be free of tax in dispensing pack sizes:—Pabavel. inositol and choline chloride.

Bonus Parcels. — ADDIS, LTD., Brush Works, Hertford, draw attention on another page to their Wisdom bonus parcel with which a display screen is supplied.-A special discount of 7½ per cent., in addition to the usual cash discount, is being allowed by BEECHWOOD INDUSTRIES, LTD., 447 Caledonian Road, London, N.7, on orders of 3 doz. Minits face cleansing pads or 1 doz. Cheks under-arm deodorant pads during the month of April.—DAE HEALTH LABORATORIES, LTD., 17 Berners Street. London, W.1, point out that their intro-ductory bonus offer of Valcrema two-way beauty treatment is applicable to six complete outfits or to six separate jars of either cream, and not as previously stated.—Sou-THON LABORATORIES, LTD., 84 Upper Richmond Road, London, S.W.15, announce that a special bonus offer of fourteen to the dozen for 6 doz, orders and thirteer to the dozen for 3 doz, orders Esobar cream of calamine is available during the summer season.

Easter Holiday Closings .- The following have notified that their offices, laboratories and warehouses will be closed from Thursday evening, April 6, to Tuesday morning, April 11.—ALLIED DRUG & CHEMICAL Co., 1 Robert Street, London, N.W.1; Burroughs Wellcome & Co., 183 Euston Road, London, N.W.1; (emergency staff on duty 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. April 8).—Ciba Laboratories, Ltd., Horsham, Sussex; Richard Daniel & Son, Ltd., Derby and Ashton-under-Lyne; Glaxo Laboratories, Ltd., Greenford, Middlesex (skeleton staff for urgent orders, 8.30 a.m. until 12 noon, April 8); MAY & BAKER, LTD., Dagenham; PHAR-MACEUTICAL SPECIALITIES (MAY & BAKER), LTD., Dagenham (urgent supplies from John Bell & Croyden, 50 Wigmore Street, London, W.1); H. R. NAPP, LTD., 3 Clements Inn, London, W.C.2 (emergency orders to John Bell & Croyden, 50 Wigmore Street, London, W.1, or R. Woolby Brooke, 38 Gloucester Road, London, S.W.7); SHARP & DOHME, LTD., Hoddesdon, Herts (urgent inquiries to John Bell & Croyden); JAMES WOOLLEY, SONS & Co., LTD., Victoria Bridge, Manchester, 3 (skeleton staff from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, April 8).

New Products and Packs.—THE BRIT-ISH DRUG HOUSES, LTD., Graham Street, City Road, London, N.I, announce that in order to provide facilities for the administration of large doses of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> by clinicians who wish to try the effect of using Anacobin in the treatment of anæmias, they have introduced ampoules of Anacobin containing 20 microgm. pure crystalline vitamin B12 in each, and that research and development work have made possible a reduction in the price (effective from April 3) of the 10-microgm. ampoules.—Menley & James, Ltd., 123 Coldharbour Lane, London, S.E.5, illustrate in an announcement on another page the new packs in which Dexedrine tablets will be issued from April 1; new prices for the products are also given. - Henry Tetlow Co., Ltd., Beresford Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex, have introduced a new Swandown Panchromatic make-up, which is available in handbag-size containers set in a detachable display card.—A. WANDER, LTD., 42 Upper Grosvenor Street, London, W.I, have introduced Aminacyl (refined sodium salt of para-amino-salicylic acid). Advantages claimed for the sodium salt over P.A.S. include virtual non-toxicity and stability in

solution. Aminacyl is presented as powder, ampoules and, for oral administration, as dragees. Descriptive literature may be obtained from the manufacturers at the address given.

# Proprietary Articles Trade Association

Additions to Protected List (Part 1).

—Parke, Davis & Co. Abidec drops, 50 c.c. (with dropper), 168s. doz., 21s. (exempt from tax). Alophen pills, 500's, 116s. doz., tax 33\frac{1}{3} per cent., inclusive retail price 17s. 9d. Benylin expectorant, 16-0z., 76s. doz., tax 33\frac{1}{3} per cent., i.r.p. 11s. 7\frac{1}{2}d. Epanutin capsules, 0.05-gm. (gr. \frac{3}{4}), 100's, 36s. doz., 4s. 6d. (exempt). Lithium citrate, effervescent tablets, gr. 5 (C.T.831), 50's, 28s. doz., 3s. 6d. (exempt). Orygene tablets, 50's, 18s. doz., tax 33\frac{1}{3} per cent., i.r.p. 2s. 9d. Vichy salt artificial tablets, effervescent (C.T.833), 50's, 24s. doz., tax 33\frac{1}{3} per cent., i.r.p. 3s. 8d.

Alterations to Protected List (Part 1).

G. W. Carnrick Co. (agents: Brooks & Warburton, Ltd.), Hormotone tablets, 100's,

68s. 6d. doz., 7s. 9d. (exempt).

Vitamins, Ltd., (tax reimposed). Complevite tablets, 60's, 22s. 8d. doz., tax 33\frac{1}{3} per cent., i.r.p. 3s. 6d., 120's, 40s. doz. tax 33\frac{1}{3} per cent., i.r.p. 6s. 1d. Pregnavite tablets. 60's, 27s. 3d. doz., tax 33\frac{1}{3} per cent. i.r.p. 4s. 1d., 120's 49s. doz., tax 33\frac{1}{3} per cent., i.r.p. 7s. 4d. Tax free dispensing packs of both preparations are also available.

Correction to Protected List (Part 2).

-Eugene Rimmel (England), Ltd., Lip
Fashion pencil, i.r.p. 6s. 6d.

Alterations to Protected List (Part 2). Modern Health Products, Ltd., Vecon tonic drink (new size), 67s. 6d. doz., 7s. 6d. (exempt).

Thermogene Co., Ltd., (agents: J. C. Eno, Ltd.), Thermogene rub for children, 10s. 6d. doz., tax 33\frac{1}{3}per cent., i.r.p. 1s. 6d.

Deletions from Protected List (Part 2).—Albion Soap Co., Ltd., Milk and sulphur soap.

7. C. Eno, Ltd., Caleno, 1-oz., 18s. doz., tax 33\frac{1}{3} per cent., i.r.p. 2s. 6d.; 8 oz., 108s. doz., tax 33\frac{1}{3} per cent., i.r.p. 15s. 6d.

Additions to Protected List (Part 2).

—Bristol-Myers Co., Ltd. (agents: 7. C. Gambles & Co., Ltd.), Ipana tooth-paste, new size 10s. doz., tax 33\frac{1}{3} per cent., i.r.p. 1s. 6d.

### NORTHERN IRELAND HEALTH SERVICES

The Northern Ireland General Health Services Board, at the final meeting of its first two-year term on March 22, decided on the advice of their legal adviser, to send to the Attorney-General papers relating to a case in which a chemist had altered the quantities ordered on prescriptions without authorisation by the prescribing doctor. The secretary said that he had found it difficult to arrive at a basis for submitting to the Services Committee a charge of breach of the regulations which did not involve apparent fraud.

A letter received from Dame Dehra Parker (Minister of Health and Local Government) expressed thanks to the Board for the services they had rendered during the previous two years. The Chairman stated that an announcement would be made shortly by the Minister as to the membership of the Board for the next five years. Permission for Lisburn chemists to operate a rota system from April 3 was granted. Under the scheme, one chemist is keeping open each week-day from 8 to 9 p.m.; on Sun-

days and half-holidays from 7 to 8 p.m.; and on public holidays from 11 a.m. to 12 noon and from 7 to 8 p.m. The Board adopted a recommendation of the Services Committee that £5 should be deducted from the remuneration of a Belfast pharmacist for breach of service by displaying on the window of his premises a notice with the words, "All National Health Insurance and private prescriptions carefully compounded here." It was decided to deduct £10 from the remuneration of a Dungannon chemist for displaying on the outside wall of his premises the words "National Health Insurance" and on the glass panel of the door the notice "Panel Dispensing." It was decided to reprimand a Belfast chemist, following receipt of a complaint by a local doctor, that a form which he had presented had been returned to him by the chemist with a note amounting to a refusal to dispense. It was announced that 97 per cent, of the population of Northern Ireland are now covered under the Health Scheme.

## PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

A MEETING of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland was held in Belfast on March 17, the president (Mr. P. R. W. Shinner) in the chair. Also present were Messrs. H. W. Gamble (vice-president), W. H. Boyd (treasurer), Walter C. Tate, Charles Abernethy, F. R. Moore, J.P., and Professor E. B. C. Mayrs, M.D. The secretary (Mr. W. Gorman) was in attendance. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. James McDowell, H. P. Crossin, S. E. Campbell, H. F. Moore, H. H. Cowzer, James Irwin and John McGregor.

The Secretary reported that the Minister of Home Affairs had approved the appointment of the examiners nominated by the Council for the year ending December 31, 1950. After considering a letter from the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, asking for assistance in nominating a member for the subcommittee in connection with the operating of the hospital's dispensary, it was agreed to forward the name of Mr. R. Gibson. The Secretary reported receipt of £890 8s. as the Society's share of the licence fees for the quarter ended February 28. A deputation consisting of the president, vice-president, Mr. Boyd, Mr. McGregor and the secretary, was appointed to meet officials of the

Ministry of Home Affairs on April 5 to discuss proposed alterations to the pharmacy legislation.

### Poisons Schedule Changes

A copy of S. R. and O. (N. Ireland), No. 9, 1950, was received from the Ministry containing the following amendments to the Third Schedule to the Medicines, Pharmacy and Poisons Act (Northern Ireland), 1945:—Heptalgin is now included in Part 1, from which dinitrocresols are omitted; dinitrocresols, bis-dimethylaminophosphorous anhydride, diethylparanitrophenyl thiophosphate, hexaethyl tetraphosphate and tetraethyl pyrophosphate are added to Part 2.

Certificates of apprenticeship were granted to John McConville, Banbridge, and Desmond Thomas Henri Ryan, Omagh. It was decided to defer till the next meeting the question of granting scholarships to pharmaceutical students, and it was agreed that the practical parts of the Preliminary Scientific examination could not at present be held in the Technical College, Londonderry. The next meeting of the Council is to be held on April 14. A donation of £5 from the National Association of Opticians was handed over to the Benevolent Fund.

### BRISTOL PHARMACY REUNION

A DINNER, attended by 120 members and guests, to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the adoption of the School of Pharmacy in the West by the Society of Merchant Venturers of Bristol, was held on March II, the head of the School of Pharmacy (Mr. W. Cooper) taking the chair.

### Distinguished Guests

The toast "The City and County of Bristol" was proposed by Mr. D. J. WILLIAMS (formerly head of the School) to which the Lord Mayor replied. The toast to "The Pharmaceutical Society" was proposed by the Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University (Sir Philip Morris). He said that much work done by public bodies like the Pharmaceutical Society had little chance of being appreciated by the general public. The President of the Pharmaceutical Society (Mr. H. Clement Shaw) replied. "The School" was proposed by the Master of the Society of Merchant Venturers of Bristol (Mr. Douglas Baker), who said the occasion was, for him, sad, as after twenty years of cordial relationship between the Society and the School they had had to relinquish it. He hoped that it would come forward and continue to provide for the education of pharmacists of the future.

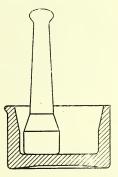
### Midnight Oil to Keep Ship Afloat

MR. COOPER, replying to the toast, recalled the School's 21st birthday, which was held in Bath in 1929, and said "Tonight we are celebrating the twenty-first session of the School in Bristol. When Mr. Williams came to Bath to open his school there were no schools of pharmacy nearer to the west of England than those in London. I think that D. J. (as he is always called) might very aptly be described, if not as a Merchant Venturer, then as a pharmaceutical one, for at first the classes were very small and he had to engage in a variety of analytical work and burn much midnight oil in order to keep his ship afloat." Among the large number of Bath students who were present he would especially mention Mr. F. E. Cooper because he was one of the first batch of fulltime students to enter the school in 1908, and Mr. C. W. Sowby (one of the members of the committee organising the dinner), who became a part-time student about the same time. The speaker thought he would be third in seniority. Mr. Cooper paid a tribute to the Society of Merchant Venturers who had made generous provision for the School when it moved to Bristol and maintained it for twenty years, until it was taken over by the City in 1949.

Mr. A. H. Millard, who was one of the chief Government pharmacists in Malaya and a former student of the School, had provided the School with many beautiful specimens of drugs indigenous to Malaya. He also acted as a liaison between the School and the Botanical Gardens at Singapore. He had played a notable part in the cultivation of ipecacuanha in that country. "A few of our students have carried their pharmaceutical knowledge into the mission field and one of these, Canon Turner, regrettably met with a fatal accident whilst leading the Church Mission to the Eskimos, Another is Mr. L. H. Moore, who has just returned to the Belgian Congo after a spell of leave." The toast to "The Visitors" was proposed by MR. G. H. Moore, and Mr. A. E. Lemon (chairman, Bristol Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society) replied.

### A MORTAR FOR EMULSIONS

What is described as "the first real improvement on the conventional mortar and pestle in many centuries" is being mar-



keted in the Uni-ted States and by Canada Armstrong Cork Co. Designed by pharmacist — Morris L. Cooper, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A. - it takes his name. The mortar has a side wall vertical outside and vertical inside to the depth of the cylindrical flat-ended head of the pestle, illustrated in

the diagram. The manager of the drug sundries department of the makers states that tests have shown the Cooper mortar and pestle to be capable of converting mixed black and white powders to a uniform grey in "twelve turns around." The 8-oz. mortar is made of porcelain, glazed outside but unglazed inside. The handle of the pestle is glazed, its head unglazed. A patent is pending.

### DANGEROUS DRUGS REGULATIONS CHANGES

New Dangerous Drugs Regulations (S.I., 1950, No. 380) come into effect on April They will further restrict the class of dispensers employed in hospitals who are authorised to possess and supply Dangerous Drugs; authorise sisters in charge of wards or outpatients' departments to possess and supply the drugs under specified conditions; authorise midwives to possess and administer pethidine for defined purposes; and remove certain linctuses containing diamorphine from the list of drugs exempted from the Regulations. They will also authorise persons registered in the Supplementary Veterinary Register to possess drugs for dispensing veterinary prescriptions.

### Authorised Persons

The new Regulation 2 defines persons who may possess and supply drugs or preparations to a specified extent and subject to certain safeguards, as:—

(a) Duly qualified medical practitioners; (b) registered dentists; (c) registered veterinary surgeons and persons registered in the Supplementary Veterinary Register in pursuance of the Veterinary Surgeons Act, 1948; (d) registered pharmacists who are employed or engaged in dispensing medicines at a hospital, infirmary, health centre or dispensary wholly or mainly maintained by a public authority or out of public funds or by a charity or by voluntary subscriptions; (e) sisters or acting sisters for the time being in charge of a ward or outpatients' department in such a hospital or infirmary as aforesaid; (f) persons in charge of a laboratory for research or instruction and attached to an institution approved by the Secretary of State; (g) public analysts under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938; (h) persons acting as sampling officers under that Act; (i) persons appointed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain as inspectors; (j) persons who are employed in connection with a scheme for testing the quality and amount of the drugs, preparations and appliances supplied under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947, and the regulations made thereunder.

Under (e) a sister or acting sister of a ward may only procure a drug from a person employed or engaged in dispensing medicines at the hospital or infirmary and upon a written order signed by her. The order must be marked to show that it has been complied with, by the person employed in dispensing medicines who complies with the order and must be kept in the dispensary. A copy or note of it must be kept by the sister or acting sister.

A dispenser who is not a registered pharmacist but was on December 31, 1948, employed in a hospital or infirmary wholly or mainly maintained by a public authority

or out of public funds or by a charity or by voluntary subscriptions as sole or head dispenser of medicines; and was then entitled to possess and to supply drugs and preparations; and had on that date not less than three years' experience in that employment and who continues to be employed as sole or head dispenser of medicines at the same hospital or in another where he would have been entitled to be in possession of, and to supply, drugs and preparations, is authorised to be in possession of, and to supply, drugs and preparations "so far as may be necessary" for his particular employment.

The matron or acting matron of a similar hospital in which no registered pharmacist and no other person authorised by the new Regulation to be in possession of, and to supply, drugs, is employed in dispensing medicines, is authorised, "so far as may be necessary for the purposes of the hospital," to be in possession of, and to supply, drugs or preparations. She may procure the drugs only on an order signed by a duly qualified medical practitioner employed in the hospital.

Under Regulation 3 a certified midwife is authorised to be in possession of, and to administer, medicinal opium, tincture of opium, and pethidine (1 methyl-4-phenylpiperidine-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester) so far as is necessary for the practice of her profession or employment as a midwife, subject to the specified conditions. include that she shall not at any time possess a quantity of pethidine exceeding the quantity which would be required for the administration of two hundred milligrams to each woman whose case of pregnancy is entered in the midwife's register of cases and who has not since the last entry relating to her was made ceased to be pregnant.

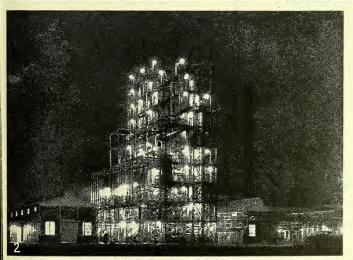
### Preparations No Longer Exempted

Regulation 5 states that the following items shall be omitted from exemptions from the Regulations:—Linctus Diamorphinæ Camphoratus, B.P.C. 1923 and 1934. Linctus Diamorphinæ c. Ipecacuanha, B.P.C. 1934. Linctus Diamorphinæ et Scillæ, B.P.C. 1923 and 1934. and Linctus Diamorphinæ et Thymi, B.P.C. 1923 and 1934.

Decontrol of Molasses.—The Board of Trade issued on April 1 a revocation order releasing molasses from control.

### **NEWS IN PICTURES**





- 1. SALES TALKS.—
  "Field force" of Wm.
  Freeman & Co., Ltd.,
  Barnsley, Yorks, called
  together recently for
  discussions on company's
  contract bonus scheme.
- 2. LIGHTS OF IN-DUSTRY.—Novel evening attraction for people of Chester district (they come by Manchester Ship Canal) is the brilliantly illuminated new distillation unit of Shell Petroleum Co., Ltd.
- 3. REPRESENTATIVES'
  CONFERENCE. Following a visit to the research institute of British Schering, Ltd., London, at Alderley Edge, Ches, and new manufacturing laboratories at Hazel Grove, representatives and London executives met research and production executives at a dinner party in Alderley Edge.



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# JOHN BELL'S

"Triad" Cherry Malt

Retail 1 lb. jars 2/8 each 2 lb. jars 5/1 each Trade 23/6 doz. 44/6 doz.

### Halibut Oil and Malt

1 lb. jars 3/2 each 2 lb. jars 6/- each 26/6 doz. 50/- doz.

### Cold Capsules

Now 1/9 (including tax) 10/6 doz.

Prices are subject to a discount of 5 per cent. for orders value £5, which may include other "J.B." lines.

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Special quadration for large quantities
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### **BURROUGH'S**

No licence now required. S.V.R.

James Burrough Ltd., 1 Cale Distillery, London. S.H.11

### TRAGACANTH

SPECIALISTS IN B.P. POWDER SAMPLES AND PRICES ON REQUEST FREUDENTHEIL, SMITH & CO., 16 Philpot Lane, London, E.C.3

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### Outlook for the General Practitioner

When a responsible newspaper (the "Manchester Guardian") makes the statement that medical practitioners "are threatened with sinking to the level of doorkeepers to the hospital and the dispensing chemist," the time has surely come for chemists to give some attention to the present status and welfare of doctors—a matter which ordinarily they might prefer to take for granted. If the statement is true, it betokens a revolutionary change since pharmacy was accepted as being "the hand-maiden of medicine."

In making the statement, the newspaper was commenting on a report, "General Practice in Medicine Today— a Reconnaissance," published in the "Lancet" (March 25, p. 555). Its author, Dr. Joseph Collings, an Australian, has practised previously in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States, and now gives the results of observations in England, in the course of which he studied the work of fifty-five practices (sixteen industrial, seventeen urban residential, twenty-two rural) in the north, north-west and south of England.

The report is worthy of study by pharmacists as by all who interest themselves in their relationship with other groups in the community (though allowance must be made for the smallness of the sample and for possible bias in the author), but it is only upon aspects that most closely concern pharmacy that we propose to com-

ment. Let us state at once that we find no justification for the stigma "door-keepers to dispensing chemists." Of industrial practitioners, Dr. Collings writes, "Treatment is even more restricted than diagnosis. Most of it is symptomatic and nearly all of it is medicinal; for there is neither time nor opportunity for physical therapy or psychotherapy." Of the rural doctor, "He seldom limits himself to medicinal treatment." That is the extent of the references to prescribing. No suggestion of merely placating the patient, or of too ready resort to the bottle of medicine!

What must arouse concern is the author's main general conclusion—that "the overall state of general practice is bad and still deteriorating." As a result, "deficiences in general practice tend to become compensated by extending the activities of specialists and hospitals," a trend which, if it continues, "is bound to result in . . . elimination of the general practitioner as a responsible person." General practice is found by Dr. Collings to be its worst in close proximity to large hospital and clinical centres.

One remedy he proposes is rapid development of professional groupings. "Even the most elementary steps towards organising the present chaos of individual general practice must result in improved medical service and a fairer deal for doctor and patient" by lightening the burden of routine organisation and clerical work. Pharmacists have tended to resist the establishment of health centres as being a potential threat to existing pharmacies. But . . . if they should prove to be the only alternative to disintegration of general medical practice?

It is, of course, as prescribers that medical practitioners are most apt to reveal to pharmacists any shortcomings they may have. For indifferent prescribing, the blame has usually been laid on the relative unimportance attached to the subject in the curriculum of medical training. Yet, even were training standards in this matter above reproach, Dr. Collings finds that "conditions of work are such as to change a good doctor to a bad doctor within a short time, thus neutralising much of the

sound teaching of the medical schools."
Any reform that promises to keep a "good" doctor good should therefore have the support of chemists,

It would be unreasonable, of course, to advocate betterment in a related profession and refuse to accept change in one's own. A detached and candid critic could perform much the same services to pharmacy as Dr. Collings has done for general practice. In the absence of such a critic, the time is opportune, now that the National Health Service has been long enough in operation to reveal its weakness, but not long enough for them to harden into permanent faults, to apply a certain amount of self-criticism. We welcome, therefore, the comments of Mr. H. Blore, M.P.S., Liverpool, given on p. 408 of this issue, based on his own experience of the working of the pharmaceutical service under N.H.S.

More About the International Pharmacopæia

UNIFICATION of Pharmacopæias has the distinction of being the subject of the first of a series of Technical Reports to be issued by the World Health Organisation. While the world waits for the appearance of the first international pharmacopæia (now in proof form), the report, which records the fourth session of the Expert Committee on the Unification of Pharmacopæias, helps to give a preview of a publication whose existence alone will make history.

Accuracy and simplicity have been the ends striven for in the compilation of the monographs if the general principles approved by the committee are to be taken as a guide. Density values, for example, (gm. per c.c.) at 20° C. are to be given in place of specific gravities, which require two temperatures to be stated. With the use of a formula (to be given in the I.P.) enabling conversion to densities at other temperatures to be made quickly, and of the buoyancy factor table in the British Pharmacopæia easy, comparison of the weight of given amounts of substances described in the two pharmacopæias should be possible.

The terminology of alcohols has been standardised to the nomenclature of the

International Union of Chemistry (e.g., methanol, ethanol). Among other name alterations approved, the renaming of hydrargyri perchloridum to hydrargyri bichloridum should be noted by pharmacists in Britain. Solubilities are to be at 20° C. (compared with 15.5° C. in the B.P. and 25° C. in the U.S.P.). A note on the subject is to be made in the general notices and not repeated in the monographs.

A distinction—not particularly helpful -is to be made between the ash of vegetable and that of other drugs. The ash of "other" drugs (together, it is to be assumed, with the non-volatile matter of volatile drugs) will be termed "residue on ignition." pH figures will not be given in monographs, but the indicators to be used will be carefully specified. Two types of arsenic limit tests giving similar results will be described, so that national pharmacopæia authorities may choose the method preferred. A useful new directive to be made is that doctors shall mark with the words "non repetatur" prescriptions for preparations containing quantities in excess of the maximal dose that they do not wish to be repeated. At least in the draft form, certain monographs were to be marked "very poisonous," a procedure seemingly unnecessary if the pharmacopæia is intended for the use of qualified workers.

### Cost of N.H.S.

THE Ministry of Health Estimates, published on March 25 (H.M. Stationery Office, price 3s. 6d.), indicate that the cost the National Health Service England, Wales, and Scotland will in 1950-51 be £34,425,450 more than in the current year, including the Supplementary Estimate. The net estimates for England and Wales are £351,541,000 (increase, £33,667,750), and for Scotland, £41,394,000 (increase, £757,000). The Ministry's principle economy is to be effected in the pharmaceutical services. Compared with the current year's estimates, savings of £4,347,000 are expected in payments by Executive Councils for the supply of drugs, medicines and appliances. Of this total, the pharmaceutical services estimates for England are cut by £3,447,000, for

Wales by £250,000, and for Scotland by £65,000. The supplementary ophthalmic services (payments for the testing of sight and supply of optical appliances) are estimated to cost£3,040,000 more than in the current year, the increase being made up of £2,890,000 for England, £50,000 for Wales, and £100,000 for Scotland. Economy is to be effected in the dental services, on which it is expected to save £2,083,000. The medical services (payments to medical practitioners), however, are to be allowed just over £1,000,000 more than in the current year.

The four services, medical and dental, pharmaceutical and supplementary ophthalmic, are grouped in the Estimates under one subhead, under which is to be secured a net saving during 1950-51 of £2,140,400. The contributions to this saving are: England, £691,300; Wales, £402,100; Scotland, £1,047,000.

The largest single increase in the cost of N.H.S. is £19,000,000 for the maintenance of hospital, specialist and ancillary services. Estimates for the cost of drugs and dressings supplied to hospitals in 1950-51 are: England, £7,908,000; Wales, £258,000; Scotland, £1,440,000. The central purchase by the Ministry of medical supplies, stores and equipment is expected to cost about £5,460,000 compared with £7,673,000 in the current year; of this total £260,000 is to be for drugs, vaccines, etc., against £343,000 in 1949-50.

### A New Face to An Old Friend

We welcome the appearance in new form and under a simplified name of a contemporary of some seventy years' standing. (The first "Proceedings" of the Institute of Chemistry were published in 1877 and dealt mainly with the constitution of the newly-formed body of which a professor and an examiner of chemistry of the Pharmaceutical Society were among the founder-subscribers). Changing its name to the "Journal of the Royal Institute of Chemistry" and altering the format (which has been known to over a generation of chemists), the official organ of the Royal Institute has been made slightly larger in size and much more legible.

### Overseas Trade Analysed

A NEW monthly publication of the Board of Trade, "Report on Overseas Trade" was issued on March 20. The Report contains thirty pages of tables and shows in broad pattern the overseas trade of the United Kingdom. A number of the tables appear elsewhere—in the "Monthly Digest of Statistics," the "Board of Trade Journal," and in some instances in the monthly Trade and Navigation Accounts -although in a different form. A valuable feature is an analysis of import and export trade in the main commodity groups to sixteen important countries or areas. The publication contains figures for the past two years and for the fourth quarter and month of December 1949.

Exporters will find particularly useful the detailed analyses of recent United Kingdom exports to the main hard-currency countries. Further, there are tables showing overseas trade for a series of years from 1935 onwards. Index numbers are also included of the volume of exports and retained imports; the balance of trade and the percentage distribution of trade with important areas and countries; and of import and export prices.

# A PHARMACIST'S ANTHOLOGY

In a side street he looked round in the vague hope of finding a pharmacy, and sure enough there was one. . . . Inside there was a crowd of people, and although it was still daylight, the lights had been switched on, and Aurélien found himself looking at the reflector lamps lighting up the red and green jars in the window from behind, as if he had stumbled on one of the mysteries of science. The shop was large, with its cupboards open, and in one corner a whole array of perfumes, powders, creams, nail-varnish . . . display cards explaining treatments, cough mixtures and corn cures. Here was a cross-section of the life of the district. Some were standing, some sitting, all were waiting for the moment when they would ask, in a discreet murmur, for some article with a shameful name which the chemist's assistants would then repeat at the top of their voices. — Translated from Louis Aragon's "Aurélien."

### EIGHTEEN MONTHS OF N.H.S.

By Hubert Blore, M.P.S.

OR eighteen months the pharmacist has fulfilled his proper function as dispenser to the nation. For the first time in his life he could, if necessary, live on the proceeds of his work in the dispensary. Proprietary medicines and cosmetics have become the jam, and not the bread and butter. When the scheme began pharmacists were admonished to take their new responsibilities seriously, and doubts were cast in some quarters on whether they could cope with the mass and scope of the work. Those doubts should now be stilled for ever. The pharmacist has coped well with his task—better, in fact, than the pricing bureaux with theirs.

There is, however, still room to improve the service, and only the best will be good enough to prevent the gradual loss to the Heath Centres (which can only be one step around the corner) of chemists' new-found position. Too many refuse to look ahead around that corner. Temporarily, pharmacists are indispensable—but only temporarily. The task facing them is to turn the temporary position into permanence.

### An Obligation to the Community

Let it be frankly admitted, first that no proper service is being provided at night. From 7.30 p.m. to 9 a.m. a few all-night shops, mainly branches of a multiple concern, are open, and those only in the great centres of population. The remainder of the community, if they require urgent dispensing have to wander around until they succeed in rousing a pharmacist from bed to attend to their needs. Something needs to be done about that situation, and it should be done by pharmacists themselves, before the matter is taken out of their hands. The all-night branches now open are reaping a rich harvest but, leaving out that aspect, an obligation exists to the community to extend that service. Obviously chemists cannot work all night and all day, and there seems, therefore, only one solution.

In Executive Council areas comprising more than about twenty pharmacies, a central night dispensary could be opened by the pharmacists of the area subscribing, say, £100 each to form a company. £2,000 should adequately furnish and stock such a dispensary, which could be staffed on a rota basis or by the employment of qualified staff for that purpose. The second, and more ambitious proposal, could await

the end of six months' experiment by a rota system. I am convinced that, in the large centres, an enterprise of that kind would, in a very short time, be paying a dividend, besides strengthening pharmacists' claim to be providing a complete service, I record here the opinion of a prominent local government official with whom I discussed this point. "If pharmacists cannot cope with the night dispensing problem," he said, "we shall have to see whether a municipal pharmacy is a possibility; such a pharmacy would, of course, open by day as well as by night."

### What would happen if . . .

Experience shows that it is not the wellequipped pharmacy that is handling the bulk of the dispensing. Size, cleanliness, and equipment count for little. The factor that tells most heavily is to have a doctor's surgery across the street, so that the public can pour out of one door into the other with a minimum of effort. The wellequipped pharmacies are generally on a main street, a little distance away from the most congested areas, and the walk of possibly a hundred yards from the surgery plays havoc with their dispensing figures. It has to be accepted that the public as a whole are lazy and cannot discriminate. That observation points to the conclusion that, should health centres, equipped with dispensaries, come in on a large scale, few prescriptions will be brought out of the building to be dispensed by the patient's own chemist. Then the bread and butter will once more disappear and we shall be left only with the jam.

There appears to be a wide divergence in the number of prescriptions that can be handled in a day by a pharmacist. In two cases which I have in mind the first, with a full-time and a part-time unqualified assistants, finds about 100 prescriptions a day the maximum he can cope with. The other, with three unqualified girls, averages 280 prescriptions a day and quite often does 350. Both establishments are apparently well-run and efficient, but there must obviously be a big difference in dispensing practice between them. A difference of one-and-a-half unqualified girls surely does not account for a 300 per cent. increase in prescriptions dispensed.

It has been widely proved that, where 6 p.m. closing and late rotas are strictly

adhered to, peace and harmony reign, Little difficulty, moreover, is experienced in keeping to those hours. The difficulties arise in areas where someone insists that he cannot close at 6 p.m.—or, more accurately, that he does not want to. If one man in an area adopts this attitude, and begins to hang on after he should be shut, the whole rota arrangement quickly collarses. Everyone in the area reverts to the later hour. Whilst this occasions no distress to the doctors or to the Executive Council, who are only paying one man to be open, it does seem foolish on the part of the pharmacists. If one man is able to cope with the late work, why should possibly five or six remain open competing for it, when each would receive his fair share in turn?

### Financial Problems

In spite of the payment-on-account arrangement, many pharmacists short of capital must be suffering acute embarrassment in settling their drug accounts. know of no chemist who has received final payment for his work of the last six months, and the average amount outstanding each month must surely be in excess of £40, or some £240 for the six months. If that is multiplied up by the number of shops—some 14,000—it will be seen that the amount outstanding on chemists' accounts at any given moment must run into seven figures. Chemists as a class are not blessed with excessive capital, nor do wholesalers as a class react favourably to accounts over six months overdue. Yet there seems no improvement whatever in the speed of the pricing bureaux. It would be a pity if the knowledge that many months will elapse before payment is received should give rise to a reluctance to dispense prescriptions of a higher value than the payment-on-account rate. So far, the writer has found no trace of that attitude but, just as controls create a black market, so long delayed settlement of accounts might create strange side-effects.

The testing scheme seems to be working as fairly as it can be expected to, catching occasionally in its net the victim of a moment's mental aberration, usually innocuous both to patient and exchequer. It is difficult to understand why an inspector could not equally well have his astigmatism seen to and test the lenses, or acquire a set of dentures and examine their quality. Surely, in this democratic age, what is sauce for the goose is to an equal extent sauce for the gander.

### TEST PRESCRIPTIONS IN LONDON

A MEETING of the Pharmaceutical Service Committee of the London Executive Council on March 6 considered a number of test prescriptions which had been referred to them. The medicines are listed below with a note of any cases in which the Committee recommended a deduction from remuneration: -Three contractor's samples of Aurist, phenol: The first was 84.3 per cent, deficient in glycerin, phenol (£2 2s.); another sample was 24.5 per cent. deficient (£1 18.); only  $\frac{1}{2}$  fl. oz. instead of 2 fl. oz. ordered on the prescription was supplied in the third, the dispenser saying he supplied the usual quantity for ear drops (£2 2s., and firm to be censured). Two samples of garg. pot, chlor. et phenol were deficient in liquefied phenol, one containing a 25 per cent. excess of potassium chlorate and the other a deficiency of 15.4 per cent. (£1 1s. in both cases). One sample of mist, stramonii et pot, iod, contained 62.7 per cent. excess of potassium iodide (£2 2s.). A sample of mist. pot. brom. et nuc. vom. was 54.9 per cent. deficient in potassium bromide. The dispenser, who was on relief duty, stated that the stock mixture in the pharmacy was single-strength, whereas in the branch where she had been employed four days previously it had been double-strength. The report adds "We understand that the strength of stock mixtures is a matter within the discretion of the manager of a particular branch, but if staff are called upon to serve in different pharmacies the question of uniformity is a matter which could well be considered by the chemists. We were informed that the mixture was correctly labelled and we therefore regard the error as indefensible and inexcusable." (£3 3s.).

### **COMING EVENTS**

Monday, April 3
WALLASEY PHARMACISTS' ASSOCIATION, Hotel Victoria, Wallasey, at 8 p.m. Annual meeting. WEST KENT BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Central Library, Beckenham, at 8 p.m. Miss M. A. Burr, M.P.S. (a member of Council), on "Pharmaceutical Affairs."

Tuesday, April 4

SLOUGH BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Slough Community Centre, at 8 p.m. Annual meeting and Miss A. Lothian (librarian to the Society) on "Pharmacy in the Seventeenth Century."

UNION OF SHOP, DISTRIBUTIVE AND ALLIED WORKERS are holding their fourth annual delegate meeting at Spa Royal Hall, Bridlington, Yorks, April 9-11.

### **OINTMENTS IN USE**

[Concluded from The CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, March 25, p. 379]

### Penetration

It is important to distinguish between skin penetration and systemic absorption. The former implies penetration into the upper layers of the skin, and possibly the subcutaneous tissues; the latter implies penetration, followed by rapid absorption into the vascular system. In come conditions it may be desirable that some penetration should take place, but that systemic absorption should be at a minimum. extensive systemic absorption with some ingredients used in ointment bases, such as the mercurials, poisoning would occur. On the other hand, attempts to use insulin, sex hormones and antihistamine drugs locally depend on achieving a high level of systemic absorption. When a water-miscible methyl salicylate cream is applied to the skin it produces a local analgesic and vasodilator effect as well as a systemic effect characteristic of salicylates. In other skin diseases deep penetration may be desirable, as in acne and furunculosis, and it is obviously important that the medicaments should, so far as possible, reach the focus of infection.

Much has still to be learned about the penetration of medicaments from various ointment bases, and the subject is a difficult one to study. It is not reasonable to suppose that results achieved on animal skin are necessarily applicable to human skin and, indeed, animals themselves exhibit marked variations in the penetration and absorption of medicaments. For instance, when benzyl benzoate preparations are applied locally to cats, the absorption is such that toxic effects and often death result immediately. On the other hand dogs, cows, sheep and pigs all show the same resistance to local application of benzyl benzoate as humans enjoy. Yet the oral dosage of benzyl benzoate cats can tolerate is similar on a body weight basis to that of the other animals mentioned.

### Skin Variations

It has been demonstrated that penetration of ointments and medicaments through normal skin takes place via the hair follicles and to a smaller extent down the sweat ducts. There is no penetration through the stratum corneum. It has also been pointed out that human skin may vary, and it is likely that the rate of skin penetration of medicaments is variable from person to person, and possibly over different parts of the body, dependent, even on whether the skin is hairy or glabrous Medicaments themselves show great variation in penetration. Generally speaking fat-soluble substances penetrate better that those that are water-soluble. Thus strychnine is more readily absorbed as a free alkaloid than as its salts. The mode of application of the ointment may also affect its penetration, since if it is vigorously applied probably more ointment is forced down into the hair follicles.

### Relative Efficiencies

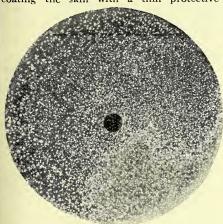
Because of the factors mentioned, and the great difficulty of obtaining satisfactory experimental results, it is not possible to be dogmatic on the efficiencies of different ointment bases in securing penetration of incorporated medicaments in human skin. It is fairly generally agreed that paraffins are not to any appreciable extent absorbed, unless they are emulsified. Normally, fats and vegetable oils do show some degree of penetration, and oil-in-water emulsified bases appear to penetrate rather better than fatty bases. For instance, in the treatment of scabies, the penetration of a benzyl benzoate paraffin mixture is not usually sufficient to kill a large proportion of the acari which are buried in the upper layers of the skin. If, however, the substance is compounded in the form of an oil-in-water emulsion, penetration is such that the scabies insect is destroyed. hot bath and scrubbing of the skin cause swelling of the stratum corneum, and so facilitate penetration of the benzyl benzoate. It seems probable, though not proved, that emulsifying agents, because they are also wetting agents, promote penetration. Fat-free bases are probably poorly penetrative, because there is rapid evaporation of the water present, and subsequent formation of a film that does not readily yield its medicaments.

By using mixtures of wetting agents, organic solvents, water and drugs, American workers have been able to achieve remarkable penetration of the skin. They claim to have obtained exceptional results with these vehicles, which they have called Penetrasols in such conditions as acne, impetigo and fungous infections. The method is undoubtedly worthy of further study. It has the disadvantage, however, that a

combination of powerful wetting agents and organic solvents has a degreasing effect, and may cause the skin to become rather dry and cracked on prolonged use.

Some mention may be made in this review of the ointment that is intended to be Such ointments are referred protective. to as barrier creams, and are used for the prevention of occupational dermatoses. They are prepared on the principle of coating the skin with a thin protective

emulsifying ointment, B.P., may be employed. Glyceryl monostearate and latex are often included in such formulas. For protection against solvents and oils the water-miscible preparations, which form an oil-resistant film, are desirable, and one of the best of these is triethanolamine alginate, which produces a tough, oil-resistant film. Sodium silicate is also incorporated to protect the skin against oil and solvents, and is frequently included in the fourth

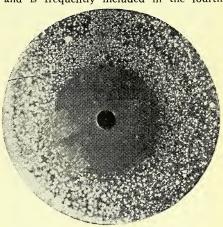


Bactericide contained in soft paraffin ointment base placed on staphylococcal growth on agar plate. Note no inhibition.

"glove" of ointment, and filling the hair follicles with cream in an endeavour to reduce systemic absorption of toxic substances and also to reduce superficial skin contacts that may cause local irritation. Probably their main advantage is to facilitate the removal of dirt and toxic material from the skin when the hands are washed. Such preparations should leave a coherent film and should be reasonably comfortable to the skin. They should be non-greasy (because of the danger of dropping tools), and should not contaminate the products being handled. They should, of course, be easy to remove by washing when the day's work is done.

### Main Types of Barrier Creams

Four main types of barrier creams have been applied. To protect against irritant dusts a simple oil-in-water emulsified base is suitable. For protection against aqueous materials a fatty preparation containing an emulsifying agent on the lines of



OINTMENTS AS BACTERIOSTATS (See C. & D., March 25, p. 379)

Bactericide contained in water-miscible ointment base placed on staphylococcal growth as adjoining illustration. Wide zone of inhibition.

type of barrier cream which is intended to protect against the action of oil-and-water soluble substances. Whilst, as with other ointments, the final evaluation must always be effectiveness in use, laboratory studies have a definite place, and various methods have been suggested to measure the per-meability of films of barrier creams. In many cases it is desirable to formulate a barrier cream especially for the purpose for which it is required rather than to use a standard formula. The pharmacist can help the industrial medical officer in this problem, just as he can advise the dermatologist on the use of ointment bases for the treatment of skin diseases.

Protection from light may be obtained by incorporating opaque powders such as calamine, or substances which alter the wavelength of ultra violet light, such as menthyl In the summer months, ointments are also employed as vehicles for insect-repellent substances of which dimethyl phthalate is an example.

### GLASGOW LECTURE ON BLOOD TRANSFUSION

MR. G. R. MILNE, Ph.C. (deputy director, Glasgow and West Region (of Scotland) Blood Transfusion Service), addressed a meeting of the Glasgow and South-western Scottish Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society in Glasgow on March 8, Mr. S. Hughan (chairman of the Branch) pre-

siding. MR. MILNE said although the title of his address was "Blood Transfusion," he wished to give it a wider scope. It was difficult to establish how old the concept of blood as a therapeutic agent was. The ancient Egyptians used blood baths for resuscitation and the custom of rushing into the arena to drink the dying gladiators' blood was prevalent among the Romans. It was difficult to understand how blood transfusion could have been practised when the circulation of the blood was not recognised. One of the most famous transfusions was that of Pope Innocent VIII in 1492. The historian Villari described how attempts were made by a Jewish doctor to pass the blood from three youths to the Pope. The Pope did not recover, the experiment cost the three boys their lives and the Jewish physician quickly disappeared. It was not until 1654 that Francesco Folli was reputed to have performed a real transfusion in animals. 1656 Sir Christopher Wren endeavoured to perfect a method of transfusion in animals with indifferent success. Credit must be given to Richard Lower for the first successful transfusion in animals referred to in Samuel Pepys' diary.

In France, about that time, Jean Baptiste Denis, physician to Louis XIV, performed a successful transfusion on a youth who made a remarkable recovery. Denis repeated his experiment on two other patients without mishap but his fourth patient died, probably due to blood incompatibility. An Act of Parliament afterwards made the transfusion of blood illegal in France. The Royal Society in this country also abolished the procedure. About 1818 James Blundell, the London obstetrician, revived interest in transfusion. His technical developments were reflected in many of the present day methods.

### Constituents of Blood

Clotting of the blood was due to the action of thrombin (found in circulating blood as prothrombin) upon the fibrinogen of the plasma, Prothrombin was activated

in the presence of calcium ions by throm bokinase (cephaline) which was liberated when blood platelets disintegrated on the shedding of blood.

Heparin also present in the blood prevented clotting. A variety of substances had been used to prevent coagulation Most Transfusion Services now used sodium acid citrate with dextrose, which allowed the autoclaving of the glucose and the citrate together without causing

# caramelisation. Blood Groups

Mr. Milne referred to the various systems of blood grouping. About 1900 Landsteiner discovered that mankind could be divided by means of their blood groups into four classes.

In 1928 Landsteiner and Levine described a further sub-division of human blood by the discovery of two additional antigens which they named M and N. Those antigens did not as a rule give rise to trouble in transfusion work, but were of value in medico-legal work. While working on the M and N factors, Landsteiner and Levine were able to define yet another blood group which they called P. The rhesus blood factor was later discevered by Landsteiner and Wiener. There were many subdivisions of the Rh blood group and the whole subject was now highly complex. During pregnancy the possible danger to a child from anti-Rh agglutinins in the mother's blood stream destroying the red cells could be obviated by transfusion within a few hours of birth. In grossly infected cases it was sometimes necessary to carry out a replacement transfusion.

Describing the collection of blood Mr. Milne said that donors were between the ages of eighteen and sixty years. The blood, after collection, was immediately refrigerated at 4°C. and stored. In this way it was fit for use up to twenty-one days from the date of collection.

Human plasma was the fluid of choice for the treatment of various forms of shock. It was prepared by pooling the plasma from bottles of blood, which was then sterilised by filtration, the difficulty of clotting being overcome by adding kaolin which absorbed the prothrombin. The plasma was freeze-dried and reconstituted by adding the required amount of water immediately before use.

Various substances such as acacia, gelatin and some of the modern polymerised higher alcohols had been tried clinically as substitutes for plasma but all had disadvantages. The most promising substitute was Dextran, obtained from the fermentation of sucrose by the organism Leuconostoc mesenteroides.

Among the globulins of plasma, gammaglobulins were of particular interest since they contained most of the immune antibodies. A concentrated gamma-globulin fraction had been used for the prevention or modification of measles. It was also effective as a protective in epidemic infective hepatitis, but the prevention of homologous serum jaundice was a more difficult problem which had yet to be solved.

Fibrinogen was a component of human plasma. When freeze-dried, this normally unstable protein could be stored for long periods. Thrombin could also be stored in the dried state. Fibrin clots were pre-

RESOLUTIONS ON

The Lancashire Executive Council's resolution on the present system of pricing and payment for prescriptions which the Birkenhead Executive Council supported (see C. & D., March 11, p. 295) is further supported by Executive Councils named below, which are to forward the resolution to the Executive Council's Association (England). Other matters dealt with are recorded.

TYNEMOUTH.—The Executive Council was informed on March 14 that payments to Tynemouth chemists were eight months in arrears, representating about £5,000 outstanding.

Worcester City.—The chairman said that the Pricing Committee responsible had put forward the following explanations of the delays:—"That at the commencement of the new service the staff available was inadequate to deal with the 60 million prescriptions submitted annually; that office accommodation required was not available; that the time taken to train a pricer was at least twelve months; that although 597 recruits had been obtained, 350 had resigned mainly owing to the close and monotonous nature of the work and lack of aptitude and because higher salaries could be obtained in commerce.

Sheffield.—Agreement to support the Lancashire resolution was unanimous after a brief description of the present pricing situation had been given by the pharma-

pared from fibrinogen and thrombin in the form of fibrin film, a material that had been used in brain surgery as a dural substitute. The fibrin gradually disappeared and was replaced by a membrane of fibrous tissue. Fibrin foam was prepared by whipping fibrinogen solution to a foam and fixing it by adding thrombin. The foam set and was freeze-dried and stabilised by heating. This product had been found of use in general surgery and neurosurgery as a hæmostatic. It had been used in the control of the hæmorrhage from the surface of the liver and kidney and in gynæcology and dentistry. It was also of value in hæmophilia.

Mr. MILNE said the further extension of the work on the fractionation of human plasma would yield in time many more adjuncts to the armamentarium of the

clinician.

Mr. S. G. Home proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer.

### PAYMENT DELAYS

cist members of the Executive Council (Messrs, C. W. Hobson and A. Wragg).

Bradford.—Members of the Executive Council, while deciding on March 8 to support the resolution considered that Bradford had already done all that was possible in pressing the matter. Mr. R. Booth, M.P.S. (chairman, Pharmaceutical Committee), said that the superintendent of the Lancashire No. 1 Pricing Bureau, who had recently visited Bradford, had stated that he had passed on full accounts for July. Some improvement was therefore being shown.

Halifax.—After protests by local chemists the Executive Council has agreed to press for prompt payment of chemists accounts and for a more satisfactory system of pricing prescriptions. Mr. H. R. Stocks, Ph.C., said that the present system of averaging the price of prescriptions under 5s. was unsatisfactory because chemists did not know whether they were getting more or less than they should. Mr. F. Swire, M.P.S., added, "Chemists do not want more or less than they are entitled to, but we want our dues." Commenting on the possibility that under another pricing system chemists might get less, the chairman said that they were prepared to take the risk if they got prompt payment.

HASTINGS and WEST SUSSEX.—The Executive Councils of Hastings and West Sussex have agreed to support the resolution.

### MEDICAL ABSTRACTS

Oestrogens Absorbed by Factory Worker.—Goldzieher and Goldzieher ("Journal of the American Medical Association," 1949, 140, 1156) find that æstrogenic substances to which a worker in a small pharmaceutical concern was exposed were absorbed by him through the skin to the extent of about 7 mgm. æstrogen, with consequent genital atrophy and other changes.

Death Following the Use of Tetraethylammonium Chloride. — Lesser ("Journal of the American Medical Association," 1949, 139, 153-4) reports the case of the death, following the administration of 500 mgm. of tetraethylammonium chloride, of a woman who had been suffering from malignant hypertension. The authors believe that death was directly attributable to the use of the drug and they emphasise the danger of the possibility of severe toxic reaction on patients in the malignant phase of essential hypertension.

Streptomycin in Urinary Infections.—Garvey and Canning ("Journal of Urology," 1948.60.176) recommend 2 to 3 gm. streptomycin daily in divided doses every four hours, dissolved in sterile water, to be given for three days and not longer than five days, for urinary infections. Streptomycin is thought to be the most valuable agent yet developed in the treatment of bacillary infections of the urinary tract, though continued small prophylactic dosage should be avoided as tending to cause the development of resistance. Alkalisation of the urine increases the therapeutic effect of the drug.

Immunity of the Newborn.—The quantity and loss of materially transmitted diphtheria antitoxin in the newborn have been examined by Barr and others ("Lancet," 1949, 258, 6-10) who have also investigated how far the passive antitoxin interferes with active response to an injection of prophylactic, and the age at which babies can respond efficiently to active immunisation. Any scheme of immunising young babies should, they urge, take those factors into account; they vary in different districts. The suggestion is made that all babies, except those born of potentially immune mothers further immunised during pregnancy, could be successfully immunised with three injections of prophylactic given at the ages of three, six and eighteen months.

Prothrombin Estimation and Dicoumarol Therapy .- Toohey (" British Medical Journal," 1950, pp. 518-20) describes a simple thromboplastin preparation for use in estimating prothrombin made by emulsifying human brain (which keeps longer than rabbit brain) with normal saline, to which has been added 0.5 per cent. phenol as a preservative. A thromboplastin preparation which will give a prothrombin clotting-time with normal plasma of 13 to 16 seconds is advised. For effective dicoumarol therapy, a prothrombin clotting-time of 30 to 50 seconds is recommended. The absolute clotting-time is of much greater clinical importance than the value of the prothrombin level as a definite percentage.

Meningitis Due to H. Influenzæ.—After study of ten cases of meningitis due to Hæmophilus influenzæ, Oundle ("Lancet," 1949, 257, 639-43) considers that streptomycin is an efficient remedy for the condition. Intrathecal and intramuscular treatment with streptomycin, combined with oral administration of sulphonamides, was successful in nine of the child patients, in whom no subsequent mental or physical deterioration was found 21-15 months after discharge. The intramuscular dosage of streptomycin was adjusted to the 20,000 units daily per lb. of body weight suggested by the Medical Research Council, though individual intrathecal doses were in some cases higher than those recommended. Duration of treatment was determined on clinical grounds.

Diparcol in Parkinson's Syndrome.-Gray (Medical Officer, British Railways) ("British Medical Journal," 1950, p. 416) has treated nine patients suffering from Parkinson's syndrome with Diparcol, All had been under continuous observation for several years and had received solanaceous alkaloids with only temporary benefit. The average daily dose, slowly attained, was 1 gm. of Diparcol, and the maximum dose 1.5 gm. All patients were subjected at various times to different methods of control, e.g., giving dummy tablets. In two cases improvement was "dramatic," one woman, formerly helpless, for example, being able to dress herself and knit. Six patients showed no significant response. The author concludes that only an adequate therapeutic test will reveal the type of case likely to show the greatest degree of response to Diparcol treatment,

New Drug for Urinary Infections .-Carroll and colleagues "Journal of the American Medical Association," 1950, 142, 85-86) say that Gantrisin (3,4-dimethyl-5-sulphanilamido-isoxazole) is the drug "of choice" in the treatment of proteus urinary infections. It is effective in the treatment of urinary infections due to Escherischia coli, alcaligenes, and certain intermediate organisms, and is moderately effective in infections caused by aerobacter and paracolon bacillus. Infections due to pseudomonas and Streptococcus fæcalis are, however, resistant. Gantrisin, when given in therapeutic doses (2 gm. orally every six hours or the intravenous or intramuscular injection of the 40 per cent. solution), does not produce any local or systemic toxic reactions.

Whooping Cough Prophylaxis.—A series of trials with pertussis vaccine completed about four years ago suggested that the pertussis vaccine used was of no value in whooping cough prophylaxis ("British Medical Journal," 1945.II.205). Since then large-scale trials have been carried out using a number of different vaccines of British and American origin. A preliminary statement issued by the Whooping Cough Immunisation Committee of the Medical Research Council ("British Medical Journal,"

1949, 2, 590-91), reports that the children were mostly between the ages of six and eighteen months and the trials were planned on the same basis as before. One group received the pertussis vaccine under trial; and another (the control group) was inoculated with anti-catarrhal vaccine containing no H. pertussis. Seven of the early trials, comprising a total of 4,691 test and control children have now been in progress for over two years and from a preliminary analysis of the results it is reported that in six of the trials the incidence and severity of the whooping cough in the test groups were appreci-ably less than in the control groups. In the seventh trial the results were only slightly more favourable in the test group. Considerable variation in the prophylactic potency of vaccines from different sources was noted and probably some variation in the potency of different batches of vaccine from the same source. One particular type of vaccine, not at present readily available, was found to give decidedly better protection than any of the others tested. A detailed analysis is now being made and should be ready for publication early in 1950. The preliminary statement, however, is much more encouraging than the report issued four years ago.

### **EXPORT LICENSING CHANGES**

Changes in export licensing control are made by a Board of Trade Order (S.I., 1950, No. 426), with effect from April 1. Among those goods which will require export licences are vitamin B<sub>1</sub> and riboflavine, plastic spectacle lenses, coal-tar products (other than phenol) and a number of drugs and chemicals. Licences will be required for specified kinds of gelatin capsules, and certain drugs and chemicals added to the first schedule of the principal Order.

In Group 13(1) the following are deleted: Amidopyrine; argol and other crude tartrates; barbitone; barbitone, soluble; bile salts; cholesterol; cinchonine and its salts; colchicine and its salts; colchicum; di-iodohydroxyquinoline; emetine salts, and preparations thereof: methyl ethyl ketone; nitroguanidine; œstradiol and its esters; œstrone and its esters; pepsin; phenazone and its salts, and preparations thereof; phenobarbitone; phenobarbitone, soluble; podophyllum (peltatum); podophyllum resin; progesterone; red squill and preparations thereof;

rutin; tartaric acid and tartrates of inorganic bases; testosterone and its esters; thyroid.

The heading "Coal-tar products of the following descriptions" and items thereunder are deleted. The item "Tars" is amended to read: "Tars, other than re-

fined coal tars."

The following items are inserted:-Aluminium chloride, anhydrous; aureomycin; barium nitrate; calcium pantothenate; chloramphenicol; diorthotolylurethane; N.N-diphenylurea (unsymmetrical diphenylurea); diphenylurethane; ergotamine tartrate; ethyl-N.N-diphenylurea (ethyl unsymmetrical diphenylurea); ethyl phenylurethane; grindelia; hesperidin; hydrastis; inulin; ipomœa; jalap, Mexi-can; leptandra; lobeline and its salts; methyl-N.N-diphenylurea (methyl unsymmetrical diphenylurea); phenoxyethyl- dimethyl-dodecyl-ammonium-bromide; Sodium metallic; tocopherols, their esters and preparations thereof, containing more than 20 per cent, by weight of tocopherols or their esters.

### TRADE REPORT

Spot quotations for pharmaceutical chemicals represent the prices for wholesale quant ties of standard quality. Prices of crude drugs and essential oils vary as to brand or grade

28 Essex Street, W.C.2, Mar. 29

Most sections of the trade in Pharmaceutical and Fine Chemicals experienced less demand for their products during the past week, probably accountable for by seasonal influences. Price movements have been few and include an increase in hometrade rates for QUINIDINE SULPHATE of sixpence per oz., as from March 27. Resulting from a further increase in the Ministry of Supply price for metal, ZINC OXIDE has again risen by 35s. per ton. A reduction is announced in prices for Pot-ASSIUM PERMANGANATE, to come into effect on April 1. New home-trade rates represent a reduction of 1½d, per lb, for B.P. quality, and £10 per ton for the technical grade, while the maker has extended the scale to include a price advantage for buyers of small quantities. It is understood that reductions are also to be introduced for export. The Indian Government has decided to increase, under certain circumstances, the face value of import licences for a number of products. Licences for QUININE and other CINCHONA ALKA-LOIDS are increased to twice their face value. Changes in export licensing control are made by a Board of Trade Order which comes into operation on April 1 (see p. 415), and affect chemicals and drugs.

### Crude Drugs

According to reports, parcels of Chinese Rhiebre now landing have been found to be of very inferior quality, much of the material being rhapontic, It is feared that other supplies afloat may also be admixed with rhapontic material, Meanwhile rhubard is urgently wanted by consumers and any available supplies of official root on the spot would be snapped up at very high prices. New-crop Strophanthus (Kombé) recently arrived and is offering at about 16s. 6d, per lb, on the spot. Inquiry continues for good-quality Alexandrian Senna Pods and c.i.f. business is reported done in new-crop No. 1 and No. 2 pods. The second auction of CINCHONA BARK, held in London a few days ago, was disappointing. Quills attracted a fair demand but there was little interest in chips. There has been little inquiry for Ipecacuanha and Sennea.

ESSENTIAL OILS generally continue firm, although there has been little activity. English-distilled CLOVE has advanced by 1s, per lb, EUGALYPTUS is short at origin. PALMAROSA remains in short supply and prices are well maintained, Chinese ANISE and Indian LEMONGRASS on the spot are slightly easier; demand for these oils is small. There have been disturbing reports of inferior-quality essential oils being shipped from the Far East.

U.S. Drug and Chemical Repor

HIGHER prices have been announced fo ETHYL ALCOHOL representing an increas of six cents per gall, on former rates One maker of Penicillin and Strepto MYCIN said recently that further pric MYCIN said recently that further price the constraint of the following that the following that the following that the following that the production of streptomycin was 200 to 300 per cent, in excess of domestic consumption and, with the prospects of substantial decline in exports in the next substantial decline in the next substantial decline in the next substantial twelve months (a decline of from 40 to 5 per cent, was "not inconceivable"), there would probably be major repercussions of the existing price structure, he indicated As regards penicillin, the factory pric level of the parenteral form had now reached the point where further decreases would have little or no appreciable effective. on the consumer demand; however, reduc tions in the oral penicillin field might stil have some bearing on demand. Rutin habeen reduced fractionally and is now quo been reduced fractionary and is now quoted from four to five cents per gm. in 10-kilo lots. Dealers in CRUDE DRUGS arunlikely to carry over large stocks into the new collecting season and although demand is rather limited, the price position New sup remains extremely sensitive. plies of Chinese Rhubarb are being offered Sandarac at \$2 per lb. (10 cents dearer is reported to be virtually nominal. There is less demand for Senega but prices ar unchanged. Chinese Menthol is available on the spot at \$10.10 to \$10.20 per lb No Brazilian material can be obtained a less than \$10.40 per lb. However, trade circles are of the opinion that the sche duled arrival of additional supplies of menthol next month will most likely bring about a reversal in the recent upward trend of prices. Many Essential Oils are firmer markets, including Citronella and Peppermint. Slightly lower prices are quoted for Anise, Ginger, Lemongrass, NUTMEG and SANDALWOOD OILS. Demand has been erratic. The increase in alcohol rates, combined with firmness in phenol, is reflected in the market for Aromatic CHEMICALS.

### Pharmaceutical Chemicals

ETHER.—SOLVENT, B.P., and TECHNICAL grades are now at the same prices, as follows:—1-ton. 1s. 6½d. per lb.; 10-cwt., 1s. 7½d.; 5-cwt.. 1s. 8½d.; smaller quantities from 1s. 9½d. to 1s. 11d. per lb. ANÆSTHETIC, B.P., is unchanged, 1-ton is 2s. 5½d. per lb.; 10-cwt., 2s. 6½d.; 5-cwt., 2s. 7½d.; 1-cwt., 2s. 8d.; smaller quantities, from 2s. 9½d. per lb. The foregoing rates are for ethers packed in winchesters; in carboys or drums, 1½d. per lb., less,

HOMATROPINE.—Makers' prices per oz., are as follows (prices per gm. in brackets): Alkaloid.—1 oz., 97s. 6d.; 4 oz., 92s. 6d.; 16 oz., 87s. 6d. (4s.). Hydrochloride, Hydrobromide and Sulphate.—1 oz., 75s.; 4 oz., 70s.; 16 oz., 65s. (3s. 2d.).

Hypophosphites.—Makers' rates per lb. for 7-lb. lots are: Ammonium, 9s. 3d.; Barium, 6s. 3d.; Calcium, 4s. 1ld.; Iron, 9s. 4d.; Magnesium, 7s. 9d.; Manganese, 8s. 5d.; Potassium, 6s. 1d.; Sodium, 5s. 7d. Hypophosphorous acid.—In wings, 7d. Hypophosphorous acid.—In wings, 7d. chesters prices are around 6s. 2d. per lb.; in carboys, 5s. 10d. per lb. asked.

ISOPROPYL ALCOHOL. - Makers quote

15s. 3d. per gall. for small lots.

Lactose. — 5-ton lots in 2-cwt. non-returnable kegs is £130 per ton; 10-cwt. lots, £133 10s. per ton; less than 10-cwt., £135 per ton. In 1-cwt. non-returnable f135 per ton. In 1-cwt. non-returnable kegs prices are 1s. more, and in 1-cwt. paper-lined bags, 5s. per cwt. less than the above rates.

LIQUID PARAFFIN.—Producers' prices to LIQUID PARAFFIN.—Froducers prices to wholesale distributors for Heavy, B.P., are £91 5s. per ton (7s. 2½d. per gall.) in 40/50 gall. returnable loaned drums; and in 5-gall. returnable drums, 7s. 11d. per gall. (or 8s. 5d. per gall. in free 5-gall. drums). Light, B.P., is £71 5s. per ton (5s. 6d. per gall.) in 40/50 gall. returnable loaned drums and 6s 2½d per gall. able loaned drums, and 6s.  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per gall. in returnable 5-gall. drums (or 6s. 8\frac{3}{4}d. per gall. in free 5-gall drums). Delivered free to buyer's station in the U.K.

Potassium permanganate. — Reduced prices come into force on April 1. New rates for home trade for material packed in 1-cwt. drums are as follows:-

QUANTITY	B.P., per lb.	TECHNICAL, per cwt.
1 cwt. 3 cwt. 5 cwt. 1 ton 5 ton 10 ton	15. 6d. 15. $5\frac{1}{2}d$ . 15. 5d. 15. $4\frac{1}{2}d$ . 15. $4d$ .	1538. 1498. 1448. 1398. 6d. 1358.

Net, delivered nearest railway station in Great Britain; drums charged extra and returnable. In 5-cwt. drums prices are 1s. per cwt. less than above. Contracts: 1 ton upwards, six months.

QUININE.—Steady. Makers' rates (per ez.) to home-trade distributors are given DZ.) to home-trade distributors are given below; additional charges must be added for repacking, etc. Alkaloid, from 5s. to 5s. 6d.; Acetylsalicylate, 6s. 3d. to 6s. 9d.; Bisulphate, 3s. 7d. to 4s. 1d. Dihydrobromide and Dihydrochloride, 4s. 11d. to 5s. 5d.; Formate, 5s. 9d. to 6s. 3d.; Glycerophosphate, and Phosphate, 5s. 5d. to 5s. 11d.; Hydrobromide and Hydrochloride, 4s. 6d. to 5s.; Salicylate, 4s. 8d. to 5s. 2d.; Sulphate, 4s. to 4s. 6d.; Quinine and urea hydrochloride, 4s. 6d. to 5s. 4d.

ZINC OXIDE.—All grades were advanced 35s. per ton on March 28. B.P. is now £96 15s. per ton in 2-ton lots, delivered,

### Crude Drugs

Aconite.—A small inquiry reported for Indian which is offered at 260s. per cwt., on the spot; napellus, 3s. 10d. per lb., spot, duty paid.

AGAR.—Kobé No. 1, now coming forward at 10s. to 11s. per lb., duty paid; for shipment, 8s., c.i.f., nominal.

Aloes.—Cape is offered at 115s. per cwt., spot; for shipment, nominal. Curação is quoted at from 220s. to 225s. per cwt., spot; forward, 215s., c.i.f.

Antimony.—Prices for metal are: 99.6 per cent. regulus, £170; 99 per cent., £160 per ton, delivered.

Areca nuts. — Steady. Spot offers are

from 47s. 6d. to 60s. per ewt. ASAFETIDA.—Quiet. Persian block on

spot is offering at prices from £14 10s. to £24 per cwt., as to grade.

Balsams.—Supplies of Canada on the spot are small and 18s. 6d. per lb. is now asked. Pará Conaiba is unchanged at 8s. per lb., duty paid (7s. 6d. in bond). Trade in Peru has been brisk and 7s. to 7s. 3d. per lb. duty paid, is now quoted. Spot quotations for Tolu are at 19s. per lb.

Belladonna.—Imported root is offered at from 3s. 6d. to 4s. 3d. per lb., as to test; leaves are from 4s. to 4s. 6d. per lb.. spot, duty paid.

Benzoin.—Sumatra prime block on the spot is quoted at from £18 10s. to £20 per cwt.; Siam block, 22s. per lb., spot.

BISMUTH. — Basic rate for metal is 14s. 6d. per lb., in minimum 5-cwt. lots.

BLACK HAW. — Steady. Root bark is offering at 6s. per lb., duty paid. spot London; tree bark, 3s. 3d., duty paid.

Buchu.—Market is steady; prices are unchanged. Short rounds are quoted at 3s. 3d, per lb., on the spot; new-crop for shipment, 3s. 1d., c.i.f. Ovals are quoted at 3s. per lb., spot.

Calumba.—Natural unwashed sorts are quoted at from 75s. to 80s. per cwt., spot.

CAMPHOR. — Chinese tablets are quoted at from 5s. 6d. per lb. for 4-oz. and from 5s. 3d. for ½-oz.; 2½-lb. slabs are from 5s. to 5s. 3d. per lb.; all duty paid. spot London. Refined powder (B.P.) is offered at from 3s. 10½d. to 4s. 6d., duty paid; and B.B. grade, 3s. 6d. per lb., duty paid, spot. B.P. powder, afloat is quoted at from 3s. 9d., landed, duty paid.

Cantharides. — Quiet. Supplies of Chinese are offering at 5s. 6d. per lb.

Capsicums. — African on spot is 180s. to 280s, per cwt., as to quality and origin.

Cardamoms.—Green Aleppy on the spot, offered at 18s. per lb.; Aleppy seeds, of good quality, are available at 28s. 6d. per lb.; split, 23s. per lb., spot.

Cascara sagrada.—Steady. Quotations for 1949 peel are at 285s, per cwt., duty

paid, spot. The equivalent of 275s. per cwt., duty paid, is indicated for new-crop, May-June shipment.

CASCARILLA.—Steady, Quills on the spot are 1s. 3d. per lb.; siftings are 1s.

CHILLIES.—Mombasa on the spot, valued at 300s. per cwt.; for shipment, 260s., c.i.f., nominal.

CINCHONA. — At an auction sale on March 23, out of eighty-four bales of Tanganyika hybrid quills, only sixty-two were sold. Sixty bales realised 2s. 10d. per lb., and two slightly sea-damaged went at 2s. 4½d, per lb. Bidding for the remainder of the quills, country- or oil-damaged, was slow and they were withdrawn. There was little interest in chips; out of 271 bags, only twenty-five were sold, at a price of 1s. 3½d, per lb. (Test:—T.A., 9.12; Q., 6.98; S.Q., 8.42; cinchonidine, 0.56 per cent.). On the spot market the following are now offering:—Congo succirubra bark (T.A., 5.59; S.Q., 2.39; cinchonidine, 0.97 per cent), 1s. 10d, per lb. Java ledgeriana (T.A., 8.61; S.Q., 6.93; cinchonidine, 0.92 per cent.), 2s. 4d. per lb. Tanganyika hybrid (T.A., 5.88; S.Q., 2.95; cinchonidine, 0.57 per cent.), 1s. 5d. per lb.

CLOVES.—Prices have risen, Zanzibar is now quoted at 1s. 9d. per lb.; afloat, 1s. 8d. per lb., c.i.f.; April-May, 2s. 1d., c.i.f. Madagascar is valued at 1s. 8½d. per lb. in bond.

Cod-liver oil.—45-gall, drums for B.P. quality are quoted at £26 5s. (11s. per gall, plus 30s. for returnable drums) and 25-gall, drums at £14 15s. (11s. plus 20s.); 5-gall, drums are £3 (12s. per gall., drums included and not returnable).

Colocynth.—White pulp on the spot is quoted at 2s. to 2s. 1d. per lb.

DIGITALIS. — English leaves from 2s. 3d. per lb.; powder, B.P., 5s. 9d.

ELEMI. — Manilla No. 1 is quoted at 1s. 9d. per lb., on the spot.

GAMEOGE.—Siam pipe is offered at £40 per cwt., duty paid; powder, 11s. per lb.

GENTIAN.—French natural on the spot is quoted at 72s. 6d. to 75s. per cwt.

GINGER.—Steady at lower prices, Newcrop African is now quoted at from 295s. to 298s, per cwt.; March-April shipment, 275s, per cwt. Jamaican No. 3 is offered on the spot at 350s, per cwt.; new-crop offered at 312s. 6d., c.i.f., for March-April shipment.

IPECACUANHA.—Steady. Nicaraguan on the spot is from 38s. to 39s. per lb.; shipment, 35s. 6d., c.i.f. Colombian is offered at from 32s. 6d. per lb., spot; shipment, 30s. per lb., c.i.f.

Menthol.—Quiet. Brazil is quoted on the spot at 84s. 6d, to 85s, per lb., duty paid; in bond, 81s. March-May shipment, 65s., c.i.f., Chinese, March-April shipment, 82s. 6d., c.i.f., quoted. Mercury. — Spot quotations are fron £18 10s. per flask, ex warehouse; to arrive nominal.

PAPAIN. — East African white, on th spot, is from 15s. to 16s. per lb.; Ceylor brown, from 11s. to 12s., spot.

SEEDS.—ANISE.—Turkish is quoted a 155s. per cwt., in bond, and 165s. per cwt. duty paid; Egyptian is 150s. per cwt., al spot London, Caraway.—Dutch, offered a 120s. per cwt., duty paid, spot London Celery. — Indian on the spot is un changed at 1s. 10½d. per lb. French is easier, 240s. per cwt., duty paid, quoted Coriander. — Market firm. Morocco, or spot, quoted at 100s. per cwt., in bond and 110s. per cwt., duty paid. New-crop for June-July shipment, 67s. 6d. per cwt. c.i.f. Cumin.—Quiet. Morocco is offered at 160s. per cwt., in bond, and 175s. per cwt., duty paid. Cyprus is nominal a 195s. per cwt., spot. Dill. — Indian iquiet and unchanged at 62s. 6d. per cwt. spot; 56s. per cwt., c.i.f. London. Fenner—Indian is effered at 75s, per cwt., spot condon. Fenugreek.—Morocco is 57s, 6d per cwt., duty paid in London; and 55s per cwt., duty paid, in Liverpool, A smal supply of Indian is available at 62s. 6d per cwt., spot London.

SENEGA.—Spot quotations are at 10s. 9d but some holders are shading price slightly; forward, 10s. 6d., c.i.f.

SENNA. — Spot quotations for No. : leaves are from 9½d. to 11d.; No. 2, 7¾d to 8½d.; No. 3, prime, 7¼d. to 7½d., no minal. Tinnevelly pods are from 8½d. to 11½d. per lb.; manufacturing, from 5¾d to 6d. Alexandrian pods, medium grades are about 2s. 6d. per lb., and manufacturing, \$\footnote{8}\)d. per lb., spot.

SHELLAC. — Easier. F.O.T.N., pure, i 265s, per cwt.; F.O. Standard 1, 280s. fine orange, 320s. to 370s.

STYRAX.—Spot quotations for crude are at 7s. 3d. per lb.

Tragacanth. — Firm. White ribbon selected, is quoted at £130 per cwt.; No 1, £120; No. 2, £110; No. 3, £100; No. 4 £65, spot.

Waxes, — Quiet and steady. Dar-es Salaam Bees' is quoted at 400s, per cwt. spot: shipment, 375s., c.i.f. Benguela for shipment, 330s., c.i.f., quoted; no spoffers. Abyssinian, 375s, per cwt., spot duty paid; shipment, 330s., c.i.f. Mada gascar is offered at 345s, per cwt., duty paid (in bond, 315s.); shipment, 305s. c.i.f. Candelilla. — Spot is offered at 435s, per cwt.; May delivery, 425s Carnauba.—Prime yellow, 885s, per cwt. spot; shipment, 870s., c.i.f. Fatty grey 650s, per cwt., spot; forward, 620s., c.i.f Montan.—Reibeck, 160s, per cwt., spot shipment, 145s., c.i.f. Ouricuri.—0.5 per cent. impurities, 660s, per cwt., spot; 1.f. per cent., 645s., spot; 2.7 per cent., 635s. spot,

### Essential and Expressed Oils

ALMOND. — English-expressed sweet oil B.P.) is from 4s. 6d. per lb.; Spanish quoted at from 3s. 3d. to 4s., as to rade. Bitter, s.a.p., on the spot, is from 4s. to 40s. per lb., as to grade.

Amber.—Rectified on the spot is offered

t 1s. 2d. per lb.

ANISE. — Original drums are from 0s. 6d. to 10s. 9d. per lb.; drums, for hipment, are quoted at 10s., c.i.f.

BIRCH\_TAR.—Crude is offered at 6s. per

b., spot London.

CAMPHOR.—White oil on spot is quoted t from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 4d. per lb., duty aid; brown oil, from 1s. 4d. per lb., spot, uty paid.

CARAWAY.—English-distilled is offered at rom 36s. to 40s.; imported oils are of-ered at from 22s. 9d. to 27s. 6d. per lb.,

pot.

CARDAMOMS.—English-distilled is offered t from 450s. per lb.; imported, from 325s. o 330s., duty paid.

Cassia.—Spot offers are from 16s. to

6s. 6d. per lb.

Castor.—Basic price of pharmaceutical uality is £121 per ton, naked, ex mill.

CEDARWOOD.—East African is available t 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. per lb., spot London. CINNAMON.—B.P. oil on the spot is quo-ed at prices ranging from 50s. to 100s. er lb. Bark oil is offered at from 14s. to 0s. per oz. Seychelles leaf oil is from s. 6d. to 9s. per lb., spot.

CITRONELLA. — Spot quotations are no-ninally 8s, 3d, to 8s, 9d, per lb.; March-spril shipment, 7s, 8d., c.i.f. Java is quoted t 18s, 6d. per lb., spot; forward, 16s, 6d.,

CLOVE.—A firmer market. English-dis-illed bud oil is offered at from 14s. 6d. 15s. 6d. per lb., according to quantity; anzibar stem oil is 9s. 6d. per lb. in origpal 56-lb. jars.

COPAIBA. — Spot offers are at from

4s. 6d. to 15s. per lb.

CORIANDER. — English-distilled is quoted t about 250s. to 260s. per lb. Dutch is fered at from 185s. to 200s., duty paid; lussian, 220s., duty paid.

CUMIN.—Quotations for English-distilled re at about 70s. per lb.

DILL.—English-distilled oil is quoted at rom 57s, per lb. for B.P. quality. Indian offered at 18s. 6d. per lb., spot. Dutch from 55s. 3d. to 57s. 6d., landed, duty laid.

EUCALYPTUS. — Firm. 70-75 per cent. B.P.) is from 5s. 3d. to 5s. 9d. per lb., pot; 80-85 per cent., 5s. 6d. to 6s. per lb.

GERANIUM.—Bourbon is offered at from 20s. to 125s. per lb., spot; forward, 115s. 120s. per lb., c.i.f. Algerian on spot is noted at from 96s. to 100s. per lb.

JUNIPER BERRY.—Imported oils are quoted at from 19s. to 25s. per lb., duty paid; English-distilled, first quality, is offered at from about 70s. per lb.; B.P.C. oil is 27s.

LAVENDER.—French, 38-40 per cent., on spot is offered at from 21s. to 24s. per lb.; 40-42 per cent., 22s. to 25s. Spanish spike is offered at 9s. 6d. to 10s. per lb., spot.

LEMONGRASS.—Spot quotations are from 15s. 3d. per lb.; March-April shipment, 14s. 3d., c.i.f., sellers.

OLIVE.—Importers' Association's rate is 26s, 2d. per gall, of 9 lb., ex store, drums Additional charges are added included. for small quantities, according to cost of breaking bulk, containers, delivery, etc.

PALMAROSA.—Quiet. Spot offers are in the region of 55s, to 57s, 6d, per lb.

PEPPERMINT.—Chinese (M. arvensis) on the spot is now offered at from 43s. to 45s. per lb.; afloat, 42s., c.i.f.; March-April, 40s., c.i.f., in drums. Piperita is offering at from 60s. to 65s. per lb., spot, as to holder and grade. English "Mitcham," holder and grade. 210s. per lb.

Sandalwood.—Mysore is about 77s. per

lb., spot; English-distilled, nominal.

Sassafras.—Brazilian is quoted at from 6s. 6d. to 7s. per lb., spot, duty paid. SPEARMINT.—Dutch-distilled is quoted at

34s. to 38s. per lb., spot, duty paid.

### ZANZIBAR CLOVES

According to a market review for the quarter ended December 31, 1949, of the Zanzibar Clove Growers' Association, supfor the three months 2,229,805 lb. The greater part, 1,679.044 lb., was the produce of Pemba, Zanzibar contributing 550.761 lb. There was no change in the Association's buying and selling prices. Exports during the quarter were on a lower scale largely because of cessation of shipments to India in the absence of import licences. In all, 28,819 bales (4,034,721 lb.) were shipped, of which the United Kingdom took 5,501 bales (770,140 lb.), or 19.09 per cent. of total exports. In the calendar year 1949 exports of cloves totalled 19,518,792 lb. against 26,245,765 lb. in the previous year. The United Kingdom took 1,508,220 lb. (7.73 per cent. of the total) compared with 271,920 lb. (1.04 per cent.) in 1948. Clove duty was unchanged at Shs. 20 per 100 lb. for the quarter under review. (From January 1, this was increased by Sh. 1 per 100 lb. due to a higher valuation assessed for cloves, in accordance with the terms of the Customs Tariff Decree.) Export of oil totalled 85,227 lb. during the quarter, of which 25,804 lb. was sent to the United Kingdom.

### CORRESPONDENCE

### A Bowls Association in Ulster

SIR, — I wish to thank you for your courtesy in publishing my previous letter concerning bowling in Northern Ireland. As a result, a number of Northern Ireland bowlers have met together and arranged to hold a tournament early this season, Mr. David Henderson, M.P.S. (a past-president of Musgrave Bowling Club), has kindly consented to act as President, and I have been appointed honorary Secretary/Treasurer. We still require a few more interested members, however, and an invitation is accordingly extended to all bowlers connected with pharmacy in Northern Ireland. Communications should be addressed to the undersigned.

Belfast. J. CALDWELL, President.

### First Stamp in Pharmacy's Honour

Sir,—Cuba has been the first country in the world to issue a postage stamp



honouring the profession of pharmacy. The Cuban Government issued in December 1948, on the occasion of the first Pan-American Conof Phargress macy, held Havana, the postage stamp here

reproduced. As a Cuban pharmacist, I am proud to send you one cancelled stamp, the translation of which is: "Republic of Cuba — Mails — Science — Confraternity —First Pan-American Congress of Pharmacy—2 cents." It is the first postage stamp in the world which bears the word Pharmacy specifically honouring the profession.

R. Galbis, Phar.D.

Marianao, Havana.

### Man-power and Holiday Relief

SIR,—In drawing attention to the acute shortage of pharmacists at the present time, your correspondent who writes under the pseudonym of "Worn Out" gives welcome publicity to what is a problem of the utmost urgency to many retail chemists. It is evident, from the increasing number of vacancies that have been advertised in the columns of the national and pharmaceutical Press during the past year, that the shortage of pharmacists is becoming

progressively worse. The solution to the problem is, of course, in the hands of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. While the dearth of pharmacists continues, the Society should seek powers to raise the status, in certain approved cases, of those in possession of the Apothecaries' Hall certificate, by admitting them as associate members of the Society and extending to them the customary privileges attaching to such membership.

WORN OUT II.

### TRADE MARKS

(From "The Trade Marks Journal," March 22 For industrial chemicals (1).—"Frantex"; by by Société Anonyme des Terres Décolorantes Françaises Franterre, Paris; 664,440. "Grenol." by Imber Research, Ltd., Greenford; 685,208.

For photographic sensitised films (1).—" ILFORD' (on carton device); by Ilford, Ltd., Ilford 680,759-62.

For all goods (1).—"LOTEM"; by Coalite and Chemical Products, Ltd., London, S.W.1; 682.110

For non-medicated toilet preparations (3).—
"FINISHEEN"; by Dorothy Gravy, Ltd., London
S.W.20; B671.375. "Boors Pure Drug Co.
LTD.," (in distinctive lettering); by Boots Pure
Drug Co., Ltd., Nottingham; 679,176. "Trois
VALSES"; by Parfuns Forvil & Dentifrices Dr
Docteur Pierre Reunis, Nanterre; 680,280." Pond's
S" (in distinctive lettering); 683,895.

For soaps (3).—" MANTILLA"; by Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., Manchester; 684,638.

For detergents (3).—"STERIQUIP"; by Deodor-X Co. of England, Ltd., Ellesmere Port; 685,332.

For hair preparations (3).—"TURUBA"; by Edward Morton, Hastings; 685,528.

For pharmaceutical preparations (5).—"Furacin"; by Eaton Laboratories Inc., New York 662,699. "Ferromath"; by the Crookes Laboratories, Ltd., London, N.W.10; 675,699. "Dal" by the Chemical and Insulating Co., Ltd., Darlington; 676,665. "Nicotexit"; by Arthur Leonard Tanner, Thornton Heath; 681,677. "Hyperysin" by Aktien Gesellschaft Hommel's Hematogen, Zurich; 681,660. "Karim"; by Vincent Nesfield, Sandhurst; 681,451. "Hepa-Desibyl"; by Parke, Davis & Co., Hounslow; 682,833. "Hemoscorfine"; by Laboratoire Corbière, Paris; 683,433. "Dram-Cillin," "Drop-Cillin"; by White Laboratories, Inc., Newark, U.S.A.; 684,482-83.

For expectorant medicines (5).—"BENYLIN EXPECTORANT"; by Parke, Davis & Co., Hounslow; 677,172.

For insecticides (5).—"TEPHOS"; by Aralkyl Chemicals, Ltd. London, S.W.1; 677,840.

For medicinal oils and petroleum jelly (5).— (Device of part of a fractionating column and pipes leading thereto); by Manchester Oil Refinery, Ltd., London, E.C.2; B677,870.

For medicinal preparations (5).—"PILOTEX"; by Sagar (London), Ltd., London, E.C.4; 682,256.